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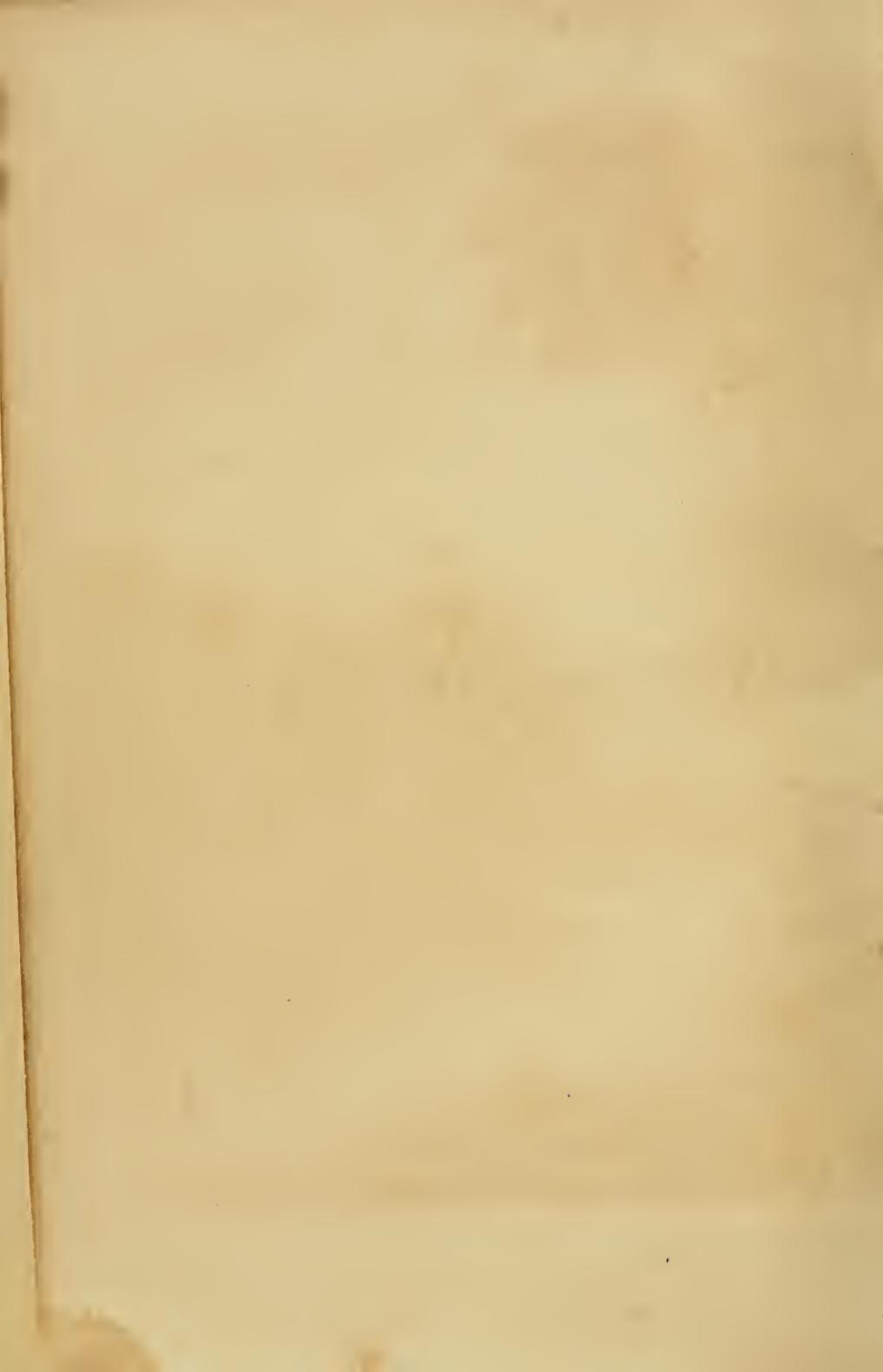
Book W4L8







# LYRICS OF THE HEART.



# LYRICS OF THE HEART:

WITH

## OTHER POEMS.

BY

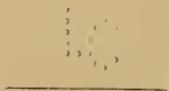
ALARIC A. WATTS.

“ ”

“ Familiar matter of to-day;  
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain.  
That hath been, and may be again.”

WORDSWORTH.

ELEGANTLY ILLUSTRATED.



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PR 5759  
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TO

MRS. ALARIC WATTS,

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED BY HER

AFFECTIONATE HUSBAND.



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## LYRICS OF THE HEART.

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### KIRKSTALL ABBEY REVISITED.

“The echoes of its vaults are eloquent;  
The stones have voices, and the walls do live :  
It is the house of Memory !”

MATURIN.

LONG years have passed since last I strayed,  
In boyhood, through thy roofless aisle,  
And watched the mists of eve o'ershade  
Day's latest, loveliest smile ;—  
And saw the bright, broad, moving moon  
Sail up the sapphire skies of June !

The air around was breathing balm ;  
The aspen scarcely seemed to sway ;  
And, as a sleeping infant calm,  
The river flowed away,  
Devious as error, deep as love,  
And blue and bright as heaven above !

Steeped in a flood of golden light,—  
Type of that hour of deep repose,—

In wan, wild beauty on my sight,  
Thy time-worn tower arose,—  
Brightening above the wreck of years,  
Like FAITH amid a world of fears.

I climbed its dark and dizzy stair,  
And gained its ivy-mantled brow ;  
But broken—ruined—who may dare  
Ascend that pathway now ?  
Life was an upward journey then ;—  
When shall my spirit mount again !

The steps in youth I loved to tread,  
Have sunk beneath the foot of Time ;  
Like them the daring hopes that led  
Me, once, to heights sublime,  
Ambition's dazzling dreams are o'er,  
And I may scale those heights no more !

And years have fled, and now I stand  
Once more beside thy shattered fane,  
Nerveless alike in heart and hand,  
How changed by grief and pain,  
Since last I loitered here, and deemed  
Life was the fairy thing it seemed !

And gazing on thy crumbling walls,  
What visions meet my mental eye ;  
For every stone of thine recalls  
Some trace of years gone by ;—  
Some cherished bliss, too frail to last,  
Some hope decayed, or passion past !

Ay, thoughts come thronging on my soul,  
Of sunny youth's delightful morn ;  
When free from Sorrow's dark control,  
By pining Care unworn,—  
Dreaming of Fame, and Fortune's smile,  
I lingered in thy ruined aisle !

How many a wild and withering woe  
Hath seared my trusting heart since then ;  
What clouds of blight, consuming slow  
, The springs that life sustain,—  
Have o'er my world-vexed spirit passed,  
Sweet Kirkstall, since I saw thee last !

How bright is every scene beheld  
In youth and hope's unclouded hours ;  
How darkly, youth and hope dispelled,  
The loveliest prospect lowers :  
Thou wert a splendid vision then ;—  
When wilt thou seem so bright again !

Yet still thy turrets drink the light  
Of summer evening's softest ray,  
And ivy-garlands, green and bright,  
Still mantle thy decay ;  
And calm and beauteous as of old,  
Thy wandering river glides in gold.

But life's gay morn of ecstacy,  
That made thee seem so passing fair,—  
The aspirations wild and high,  
The soul to nobly dare,—

Oh, where are they, stern ruin, say?—  
Thou dost but echo—where are they!

Adieu!—Be still to other hearts  
What thou wert long ago to mine;  
And when the blissful dream departs,  
Do thou a beacon shine,  
To guide the mourner, through his tears,  
To the blest scenes of happier years.

Farewell!—I ask no prouder boon,  
Than that my parting hour may be  
Bright as the evening skies of June;—  
Thus, thus to fade like thee,  
With heavenly FAITH's soul-cheering ray  
To gild with glory my decay!

---

#### TO NINE SISTERS.

LET other bards their homage pay  
To Sisters all have dubbed “divine;”  
A love sincerer prompts my lay,  
To hymn a less immortal NINE.  
What hath *my* humble lyre to do  
With goddesses too fine for earth,  
Whose simple music ever drew  
Its power from spells of lowlier birth!

A wild, Æolian lute, whose strings,  
By nature swayed, no sounds impart,



The Vine



Save when some fitful feeling flings  
    Its breeze-like impulse o'er my heart ;  
But waking gentle echoes oft,  
    Where prouder strains might fail to move ;—  
Fond, brooding thoughts, and visions soft,  
    Of fireside peace, and home-bred love.

In years long past, when life was new,  
    Ere Time or Care had touched my brow,  
My earliest songs were given to you ;  
    Come back and be my Muses now !  
Now that my heart is faint and worn  
    With many a vigil dark and long,  
And I have learned those hues to mourn  
    That brightened once my hopes and song.

The smiles that lit my path of yore,  
    And bade my lyre responsive thrill,  
May plume my flagging wing once more,  
    May raise my drooping spirit still :  
Oh, could that sunshine bring again  
    The high resolves my boyhood knew,  
Haply, I then might wake a strain  
    Worthier a poet's fame and you !

The bounding pulse, ingenuous glee,  
    That spring-like, rich, romantic gleam,  
Which tinges everything we see,  
    And makes our youth one blessed dream,—  
A summer day, of deep delight,  
    When not a threatening cloud is near,  
When all is beauty to the sight,  
    And all is music to the ear !

And such *my* life when Hope was young,  
And the bright world before me lay,  
And visions of enchantment flung  
Their glories on my lonely way.  
Yes, such was life to me, when first  
Inspired by you, my gentlest NINE,  
Fresh from the fount of feeling burst  
The strains that wreathed your names with mine !

Ye, too, are changed : the playful child,  
My Muse of mirth in other days,  
That bade me share her gambols wild,  
And charmed me with her winning ways,—  
Is now a child no more ;—but moves  
With slower step, sedater air ;  
With many a grace her poet loves,  
But not the smiles she used to wear.

And ye, o'erstepping then the bound  
'Twixt girlhood's bloom and woman's beauty,  
Whose hearts the hallowed bliss have found  
Of matron love, and matron duty,—  
Long o'er your happy circles reign,  
And watch love's budding flowers unfold ;  
But never can you be again  
The gladsome band you were of old !

Yet ye shall be my Muses still,  
By Memory painted as of yore ;  
Still shall my harp responsive thrill  
To spells it oft hath owned before :  
The meeter inspiration far  
Those unambitious chords to move,

Whose cherished themes so often are  
Childhood's sweet smiles, and Woman's love.

Let loftier bards their tributes bring  
To nymphs of more uncertain mood ;  
Whilst grateful memory bids me sing  
A fairer, kinder Sisterhood :  
For them may Faith's bright beacon shine ;  
Its grace in God's good time be given ;  
So shall they shame the heathen NINE,  
And be immortal, too, in heaven !

---

## TEN YEARS AGO.

“That time is past,  
And all its aching joys are now no more,  
And all its dizzy raptures. Not for this  
Faint I, nor mourn, nor murmur; other gifts  
Have followed, for such loss, I would believe,  
Abundant recompense.”

WORDSWORTH.

## I.

TEN years ago, ten years ago,  
Life was to us a fairy scene,  
And the keen blasts of worldly woe  
Had sere'd not then its pathway green ;  
Youth and its thousand dreams were ours,—  
Feelings we ne'er can know again,—  
Unwithered hopes, unwasted powers,  
And frames unworn by mortal pain :

Such was the bright and genial flow  
Of life with us—ten years ago !

## II.

Time has not blanched a single hair  
That clusters round thy forehead now ;  
Nor hath the cankering touch of Care  
Left even one furrow on thy brow.  
Thine eyes are bright as when we met,  
In love's deep truth, in earlier years ;  
Thy rosy cheek is blooming yet,  
Though sometimes stained by secret tears ;—  
But where, oh where's the spirit's glow  
That shone through all—ten years ago !

## III.

I, too, am changed, I scarce know why ;  
I feel each flagging pulse decay ;  
And youth, and health, and visions high,  
Melt like a wreath of snow away !  
Time cannot sure have wrought the ill ;  
Though worn in this world's sickening strife  
In soul and form,—I linger still  
In the first summer month of life ;  
Yet journey on my path below,—  
Oh, how unlike—ten years ago !

## IV.

But look not thus ; I would not give  
The wreck of hopes that thou must share,  
To bid those joyous hours revive,  
When all around me seemed so fair :

We've wandered on in sunny weather,  
 When winds were low and flowers in bloom ;  
 And hand in hand have kept together,  
 And still will keep, 'mid storm and gloom ;  
 Endeared by ties we could not know,  
 When life was young—ten years ago !

## V.

Has Fortune frowned ?—Her frowns were vain,  
 For hearts like ours she could not chill ;  
 Have friends proved false ?—Their love might wane,  
 But ours grew fonder, firmer still !  
 Twin barks on this world's changing wave,  
 Steadfast in calms, in tempests tried,  
 In concert still our fate we'll brave,  
 Together cleave life's fitful tide ;  
 Nor mourn, whatever blasts may blow,  
 Youth's first wild dreams—ten years ago !

## VI.

Have we not knelt beside his bed,  
 And watched our first-born blossom die ;  
 Hoped, till the shade of hope had fled,  
 Then wept till feeling's fount was dry !  
 Was it not sweet in that sad hour  
 To think, 'mid mutual tears and sighs,  
 Our bud had left its earthly bower,  
 And burst to bloom in Paradise :—  
 What, to the thought that soothed that woe,  
 Were heartless joys—ten years ago !

## VII.

Yes, it is sweet, when Heaven is bright,  
 To share its sunny beams with thee !  
 But even more sweet, 'mid clouds and blight,  
 To have thee near to weep with me :  
 Then dry those tears, though somewhat changed  
 From what we were in earlier youth,—  
 Time, that hath hopes and friends estranged,  
 Hath left us love in all its truth ;—  
 Sweet feelings we would not forego,  
 For life's best joys—ten years ago !

---

## MY OWN FIRESIDE.

“It is a mystic circle that surrounds  
 Comforts and virtues never known beyond  
 Its hallowed limit.”

SOUTHEY.

LET others seek for empty joys,  
 At ball or concert, rout or play ;  
 Whilst, far from Fashion's idle noise,  
 Her gilded domes and trappings gay,  
 I while the wintry eve away,  
 'Twixt book and lute the hours divide ;  
 And marvel how I e'er could stray  
 From thee—my own fireside !

My own fireside ! Those simple words  
 Can bid the sweetest dreams arise ;

Awaken feeling's tenderest chords,  
And fill with tears of joy mine eyes.  
What is there my wild heart can prize,  
That doth not in thy sphere abide ;  
Haunt of my home-bred sympathies,  
My own—my own fireside !

A gentle form is near me now ;  
A small white hand is clasped in mine ;  
I gaze upon her placid brow,  
And ask, what joys can equal thine :  
A babe, whose beauty's half divine,  
In sleep his mother's eyes doth hide ;  
Where may Love seek a fitter shrine,  
Than thou, my own fireside !

What care I for the sullen roar  
Of winds without, that ravage earth ;  
It doth but bid me prize the more  
The shelter of thy hallowed hearth ;—  
To thoughts of quiet bliss give birth ;  
Then let the churlish tempest chide,  
It cannot check the blameless mirth  
That glads my own fireside !

My refuge ever from the storm  
Of this world's passion, strife, and care ;  
Though thunder-clouds the skies deform,  
Their fury cannot reach me there ;  
There all is cheerful, calm, and fair ;  
Wrath, Envy, Malice, Strife, or Pride,  
Hath never made its hated lair,  
By thee—my own fireside !

Thy precincts are a charméd ring,  
Where no harsh feeling dares intrude ;  
Where life's vexations lose their sting ;  
Where even grief is half subdued ;  
And Peace, the halcyon, loves to brood.  
Then, let the world's proud fool deride ;  
I'll pay my debt of gratitude  
To thee—my own fireside !

Shrine of my household deities ;  
Bright scene of home's unsullied joys ;  
To thee my burthened spirit flies,  
When Fortune frowns, or Care annoys !  
Thine is the bliss that never cloys ;  
The smile whose truth has oft been tried ;—  
What, then, are this world's tinsel toys,  
To thee—my own fireside !

Oh, may the yearnings, fond and sweet,  
That bid my thoughts be all of thee,  
Thus ever guide my wandering feet  
To thy heart-soothing sanctuary !  
Whate'er my future years may be,  
Let joy or grief my fate betide ;  
Be still an Eden bright to me,  
My own—my own fireside !

## MAY-FLOWERS

FOUND AFTER THE LAPSE OF YEARS IN A VOLUME OF "BURNS."

"Life went a-Maying  
 With Nature, Hope, and Poesy,  
 When I was young."

COLERIDGE.

MEMORIAL frail of youthful years,  
 Of hopes as wild and bright as they,  
 Thy faint, sweet perfume calls up tears  
 I may not, cannot wish away !  
 Thy withered leaves are as a spell  
 To bring the sainted past before me ;  
 And long-lost scenes, but loved too well,  
 In all their truth restore me.

Cold is her hand who placed thee here,  
 Thou record sad of Love and Spring,  
 Ere life's May-flowers, like thee, grew sere,  
 Or Hope had waved her parting wing :  
 When Boyhood's burning dreams were mine,  
 And Fancy's magic circlet crowned me ;  
 And Love, when love is half divine,  
 Spread its enchantments 'round me !

How can I e'er forget the hour  
 When thou wert glowing on her breast,  
 Fresh from the dewy hawthorn bower  
 That looked upon the golden west !

She snatched thee from thy sacred shrine,—  
 A brighter fate she scarce could doom thee,—  
 And bade a Poet's wreath be thine,—  
 His deathless page entomb thee.

That hour is past, those dreams have fled ;  
 Ties, sweeter, holier, bind me now ;  
 And, if life's first May-flowers are dead,  
 Its summer garland wreathes my brow.  
 Sleep on, sleep on ! I would but gaze  
 A moment on thy faded bloom ;  
 Heave one wild sigh to other days,  
 Then close thy hallowed tomb !

---

### THE PAINTER'S DREAM.

#### I.

HERE let me rest ; a dewy fragrance breathes  
 In gentlest whispers, from the plains around,  
 Whilst o'er my head, in green and graceful wreaths,  
 The o'erarching vine its wandering shoots hath wound :  
 What rainbow hues yon bright horizon bound !  
 What golden gleams yon sleeping spires invest !  
 Here let me pause,—it is enchanted ground ;  
 Hence, let me brood upon yon burning west,  
 Where sun-touched Florence lies, like Love on Beauty's breast !

#### II.

But not alone to chain the roving eye,  
 Doth yon fair scene its magic marvels spread ;

It hath a holier spell, a charm more high—  
The haunt, the birth-place of the glorious dead !  
There Raffaelle oft his heavenly fancy fed  
With thoughts and visions all too pure for earth ;  
There Buonaroti's dreams,—of darkness bred,  
And Hell's wild grandeur,—taste-sublimed, had birth ;  
Two bright but differing stars, of kindred fame and worth.

## III.

Unequalled masters of that Art divine  
Which makes our visions palpable as bright ;  
'Neath whose keen eye, and touch creative, shine  
Unnumbered shapes of wonder and delight ;—  
Surpassing rivals in Fame's boundless flight ;  
Twin heirs of Genius and her broad domain ;  
One, seeking sunshine in the realms of light,  
The other courting Horror's grisly train,  
And drawing strength from Hate, sublimity from Pain !

## IV.

Transcendent Raffaelle, thy accomplished mind,  
Irradiate, teemed with beauty, love, and grace !  
What pure simplicity, by taste refined,  
In all thy forms the studious eye may trace !  
What seraph brightness breathes from every face  
Thy glowing mind hath on thy canvass poured ;  
How doth thy mind his humbled heart abase,  
Who seeks, a votary true, thy shrine adored,  
To win a touch, a charm,—and his despair record !

## V.

Nor less his fame, to whose proud hand 'twas given,  
The Judgment Day's terrific tale to tell ;

Who, if he sometimes caught his fire from Heaven,  
 Would oftener snatch it from the depths of Hell ;  
 The fiercer passions owned his wondrous spell ;  
 Titanic grief that will not yield to Time ;  
 Revenge, Remorse, and Hate unquenchable,—  
 The weltering offspring of Despair and Crime,—  
 Touched by his wand, uprise in agony sublime !

## VI.

But, lo ! what vision bursts upon my sight !  
 What shapes, what hues, yon opening doors unfold !  
 What rainbow forms are glancing in the light  
 Showered from yon gorgeous roof of fretted gold !  
 Whence spring the dazzling tints I now behold ?  
 Where am I, where ?—I live, I breathe again !  
 What glorious triumphs of the days of old  
 Are gathered 'round : Ausonia, France, and Spain,  
 Your brightest dreams I see ; I have not toiled in vain !

## VII.

There Guido's Mary looks in faith on high ;  
 There Salvi's Nun in silent prayer doth bow ;  
 There Claude's bright, rippling wave and sunset sky,  
 Salvator's storm-rent rock and mountain brow,  
 And Poussin's classic glooms are gathering now ;—  
 There Carlo Dolci's matchless anguish droops ;  
 There golden Titian's living beauties glow ;  
 There graceful Watteau spreads his courtly groups ;  
 And 'neath his ponderous cross, Del Sarto's SAVIOUR stoops !

## VIII.

There bright Giorgione's blue-eyed consort shines,  
 A rival star to Titian's gay brunette ;

There pure Coreggio's reading mourner pines;  
 And crystal Cuyp's delicious sun hath set;  
 There Spagnoletto's dying Anchoret,  
 And Caravaggio's slaughtered Martyrs lie;  
 There deep, clear Ruysdael's Twilight lingers yet;  
 Romano's battle steeds are thundering by;  
 And Cagliari's Feast salutes the broad, blue sky!

## IX.

There, too, Albano's Sea Nymphs float along;  
 Guercino's Hagar sheds upbraiding tears;  
 Piombo's Lazar in his faith is strong;  
 And Vinci's Judith still the charger bears;—  
 There polished Teniers' festive evening wears;  
 Velasquez's Infant smiles in fadeless youth;  
 Zampieri's Sibyl lifts the veil of years;  
 Hobbema's sunlit slopes, and mill-stream smooth,  
 And Rembrandt's shadowy power, reflect immortal truth!

## X.

And more, yet more! the fierce Giotto there,  
 His victim tortured, triumphs in his pain;  
 There Mazzuoli's Vision, bright and fair,  
 From robber-spoilers hath escaped again;  
 And Berretino's Sabines shriek in vain!  
 There full of faith the good St. Bruno dies;  
 There Snyders' yelling bloodhounds burst their chain:  
 There gorgeous Rubens' emblemed Triumphs rise;  
 And Vandyck's Charles uplifts his mild, reproachful eyes.

## XI.

The sun hath sunk behind yon city gay,  
 Where purple hues are fleckering all the sky;

And Twilight weaves her web of night and day ;  
 And, one by one, the stars look out on high ;  
 But as the feathery clouds sail slowly by  
 The crimson flush that tracks their monarch's way,  
 Each snow-white billow takes a deeper dye,  
 Each silvery wreath grows brighter in the ray,  
 Till all have shared the spell, and, smiling, passed away !

## XII.

And thus my heart, when I have ceased to gaze,  
 Enchanting Florence, on thy fanes sublime,  
 Will strive to trace the bright, immortal blaze  
 That rises round thee from the depths of Time !  
 And though I leave thee for a colder clime ;  
 Still memory's halo, lingering pensively,  
 Shall steep my soaring visions as they climb ;  
 Till many an aim, wish, feeling, hope shall be  
 To brighter issues touched by thoughts of thine and thee !

## FOR EVER THINE.

FOR ever thine, whate'er this heart betide ;  
 For ever mine, where'er our lot be cast ;  
 Fate, that may rob us of all wealth beside,  
 Shall leave us love—till life itself be past.

The world may wrong us ; we will brave its hate ;  
 False friends may change, and falser hopes decline ;  
 Though bowed by cankering cares, we smile at Fate,  
 Since thou art mine, beloved, and I am thine !

For ever thine ; when circling years have spread  
 Time's snowy blossom's o'er thy placid brow ;  
 When youth's rich glow, its "purple light," hath fled,  
 And lilies bloom where roses flourish now ;—

Say, shall I love the fading beauty less  
 Whose spring-tide radiance has been wholly mine ?—  
 No ; come what will, thy steadfast truth I'll bless,  
 In youth, in age,—thine own, for ever thine !

For ever thine ; at evening's dewy hour,  
 When gentle hearts to tenderest thoughts incline ;  
 When balmiest odours from each closing flower  
 Are breathing 'round me,—thine, for ever thine !

For ever thine ; 'mid Fashion's heartless throng ;  
 In courtly bowers, at Folly's gilded shrine ;  
 Smiles on my cheek, light words upon my tongue,  
 My deep heart still is thine,—for ever thine !

For ever thine ; amid the boisterous crowd,  
 Where the jest sparkles, with the sparkling wine,  
 I never breathe thy gentle name aloud,  
 But drink to thee, in thought,—for ever thine !

I would not, sweet, profane that silvery sound,  
 The depths of love could such rude hearts divine ;  
 Let the loud laughter peal, the toast go round,  
 My inmost thoughts are thine,—for ever thine !

For ever thine, whate'er this heart betide ;  
 For ever mine, where'er our lot be cast ;  
 Fate, that may rob us of all wealth beside,  
 Shall leave us love,—till life itself be past !

## WE MET WHEN LIFE AND HOPE WERE NEW.

WE met when life and hope were new,  
When all we looked on smiled ;  
And Fancy's wand around us threw  
Enchantments, sweet as wild :  
Ours were the light and bounding hearts  
The world had yet to wring ;  
The bloom, that when it once departs,  
Can know no second spring.

What though our love was never told,—  
Or breathed in sighs alone ;  
By signs that would not be controlled,  
Its growing strength was shown :—  
The touch that thrilled us with delight ;  
The glance by art untamed ;  
In one short moon, as brief as bright,  
The tender truth proclaimed.

We parted, chilling looks among ;  
My inmost soul was bowed ;  
And blessings died upon my tongue,  
I dared not breathe aloud :—  
A pensive smile, serene and bland,  
One thrilling glance—how vain !  
A pressure of thy yielding hand ;  
We never met again !

Yet still a spell was in thy name,  
Of magic power to me ;  
That bade me strive for wealth and fame,  
To make me worthy thee :  
And long through many an after-year,  
When boyhood's dream had flown,  
With nothing left to hope or fear,  
I loved, in silence, on !

More sacred ties, at length, are ours,  
As dear as those of yore ;  
And later joys, like autumn-flowers,  
Have bloomed for us once more !  
But never canst thou be again,  
What once thou wert to me ;—  
I glory in another's chain,—  
And thou'rt no longer free.

Thy stream of life glides calmly on,  
A prosperous lot is thine ;  
The brighter that it did not join  
The turbid waves of mine ;  
Yet oh ! might fondest love relume  
Joy's sunshine on my brow,  
Thine scarce can be a happier doom  
Than I may boast of now.

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## THE BIRTH OF THE FIRST-BORN.

NEVER did music sink into my soul  
So “silver sweet,” as when thy first weak wail

On my rapt ear in doubtful murmurs stole,  
Thou child of love and promise!—What a tale  
Of hopes and fears, of gladness and of gloom,  
Hung on that slender filament of sound!  
Life's guileless pleasures and its griefs profound  
Seemed mingling in thy horoscope of doom.  
Thy bark is launched, and lifted is thy sail  
Upon the weltering billows of the world;  
But oh! may winds far gentler than have hurled  
My struggling vessel on, for thee prevail;—  
Or, if thy voyage must be rough, mayst thou  
Soon 'scape the storm and be—as blest as I am now!

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## TO A PORTRAIT.

PAINTED BY THE LATE G. S. NEWTON, ESQ., R.A., FROM AN OLD MINIATURE,  
SAID TO BE OF NELL GWYNN.

BEAUTIFUL and radiant girl!  
I have heard of teeth of pearl,  
Lips of coral, cheeks of rose,  
Necks and brows like drifted snows,  
Eyes, as diamonds sparkling bright,  
Or the stars of summer's night,  
And expression, grace, and soul,  
Softly tempering down the whole:  
But a form so near divine,  
With a face so fair as thine,  
And so sunny bright a brow,  
Never met my gaze till now:  
Thou wert Venus' sister twin,  
If this shade be thine—NELL GWYNN!

Cast that carcanet away,  
Thou hast need of no display,—  
Gems, however rare, to deck  
Such an alabaster neck.  
Can the brilliant's lustre vie  
With the glories of thine eye ;  
Or the ruby's red compare  
With the two lips breathing there ?  
Can they add a richer glow  
To thy beauties ? No, sweet, no !  
Though thou bear'st the name of one  
Whom 'twas virtue once to shun,—  
It were sure to taste a sin,  
Now to pass thee by—**NELL GWYNN.**

But they've wronged thee ; and I swear  
By that brow so dazzling fair,—  
By the chastened light that flashes  
From thy drooping lids' long lashes ;  
By the deep blue eyes beneath them ;  
By the clustering curls that wreath the them ;  
By thy softly blushing cheek ;  
By thy lips, that more than speak ;  
By thy stately, swan-like neck,  
Glossy white without a speck ;  
By thy form, so passing fair,  
Modest mien, and graceful air ;  
'Twas a burning shame and sin,  
Sweet, to christen thee **NELL GWYNN** !

Wreath the for aye thy snowy arms,  
Thine can be no wanton's charms !  
Like the fawn's, as bright and shy,  
Beams thy soft, retiring eye ;

No bold invitation's given  
From the depths of that blue heaven,  
Nor one glance of lightness hid  
'Neath its pale, declining lid !  
No ; I'll not believe *thy* name  
Can be aught allied to shame !  
Then let them call thee what they will,  
I've sworn, and I'll maintain it still,—  
Despite tradition's idle din,—  
Thou art not, canst not be, NELL GWYNN !

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## RUTH.

INTREAT me not to leave thee so,  
Or turn from following thee ;  
Where'er thou goest I will go,  
Thy home my home shall be !

The path thou treadest, hear my vow,  
By me shall still be trod ;  
Thy people be my people now ;  
Thy God shall be my God !

Reft of all else, to thee I cleave,  
Content if thou art nigh ;  
Whene'er thou grievest, I will grieve,  
And where thou diest, die !

And may the Lord, whose hand hath wrought  
This weight of misery,  
Afflict me so, and more, if aught  
But death part thee and me !

## HE NEVER SAID HE LOVED ME.

He never said he loved me ;  
Nor hymned my beauty's praise ;  
Yet there was something more than words  
In his full, ardent gaze :  
He never gave his passion voice ;  
Yet on his flushing cheek,  
I read a tale more tender far  
Than softest tones could speak !

He never said he loved me ;  
Yet, when none else were nigh,  
How could I hear and doubt the truth,  
His low, unbidden sigh !  
The throbs of his tumultuous heart,  
That faint, sweet breath above ;  
What tongue could syllable so well  
The tale of hope and love !

He never said he loved me ;  
To silent worship vowed,  
The deep devotion of his soul  
He never breathed aloud ;—  
Though if he raised his voice in song,  
As swelled each tenderer tone,  
It seemed as if designed to reach  
*My* ear and heart alone !

He never said he loved me ;  
 Yet the conviction came,  
 Like some great truth that stirs the soul  
 Ere yet it knows its name !  
 Some angel-whisper of a faith  
 That long defied our ken,  
 And made us almost feel that life  
 Had scarce begun till then !

And have I said *I* loved him ?  
 Alas, for maiden pride,  
 That feeling he hath ne'er revealed,  
 I have not learned to hide !  
 And yet *clairvoyant* Love informs  
 His votaries' hearts so well,  
 That long before 'tis time to speak,  
 There's nothing left to tell !

## THEY ARE NO MORE.

“Ils ne sont plus !”  
 OLD FRENCH SONG.

THEY are no more, they are no more.  
 The ardent hopes and visions high,  
 That filled my glowing heart of yore,  
 And gave my fancy wings to fly ;  
 The love I thought would never die ;  
 The faith that every doubt forbore ;  
 The stalwart arm and eagle eye ;—  
 They are no more, they are no more !

The trusted friends, companions gay,  
Who trod with me youth's pleasant road,  
Who cheered me on my 'venturous way,  
And lightened half the pilgrim's load ;  
Where are they now ? Estranged or dead,  
Or wanderers on some distant shore ;  
By fate impelled, or fancy led,  
To me, alas, they are no more !

And where are now, oh, where are now,  
The buoyant step, and lighter heart ;  
The cordial smile, untroubled brow,  
That once were of my life a part ?  
Warped, withered, chilled by bitter wrong,  
My heart's best impulses are o'er ;  
Even fancy's spells, the power of Song,  
They are no more, they are no more !

With nothing left to live for here,  
I fain would pass in peace away ;  
My heart and hopes alike grow sere,  
Why should I longer here delay ;  
So that some being of kindred clay,—  
Life's wild and fitful fever o'er,—  
May of my faults but, sorrowing, say  
They are no more, they are no more !

## GREECE.

WRITTEN IN DOCTOR C. WORDSWORTH'S "GREECE."

LAND of heroic deeds and deathless song ;  
Thou Pharos bright to many a wondering age :  
What glorious shapes around me seem to throng,  
Whene'er I turn thy sad, eventful page !

Fall'n as thou art, thy form hath not yet lost  
The regal aspect that of old it wore ;  
Ruined and wronged, discrowned and tempest-tossed,  
Ghost of the godlike thing thou wert of yore !

A halo rests upon each crumbling fane,  
And bathes in light each mountain pinnacle ;  
And thy broad ocean, and thy battle plain,  
Sleep in the twilight of thy glory still !

Though tower and temple, tomb and shrine decay,  
Till not a stone remains their tale to tell ;  
Time cannot wear the eternal hills away,  
Nor stay the rivers from their sides that well !

He cannot blot from out thy fading face  
Platæa's field, the Plain of Marathon ;  
The site of "sea-born Salamis" erase ;  
Or cloud the fame thy dauntless chiefs have won.

Still Jove's Olympus cleaves the upper sky,  
 And Peneus winds fair Tempe's vale along ;  
 Parnassus lifts his forkéd head on high,  
 And Castaly still weeps her tears of song.

There too the Muses' mount, from whose pure breast,  
 No noxious herb was ever known to spring ;  
 With its twin fountains in their bright unrest,  
 And murmuring bees for ever on the wing.

And there Hymettus, "flowery hill," looks down  
 On Plato's haunts, the groves of Academe ;  
 The immortal eity, with her marble crown ;  
 And smooth Ilissus' ever devious stream.

And by her guardian Titans circled round,  
 Its name a spell-word sweet that typifies  
 Whate'er of peace on earth may yet be found,  
 Thy verdant vale, divine Arcadia, lies !

Than war more ruthless, though the Muses' bower,  
 ("The great Emathian conqueror bid spare,")  
 Hath felt, at length, Time's desolating power,  
 And lifts its crownless head in "ruin bare;"

He cannot chase the glowing forms from earth  
 That people still each valley, hill, and stream ;  
 He may not drive from our domestic hearth,  
 The fond beliefs o'er which we love to dream :

The old traditions; linking many a name  
 With deeds, even now, that wake a wondering thrill ;  
 With tales of gentle hearts, and souls of flame,  
 Whose loves and sorrows stir our pity still !

There Lesbian Sappho, from Leucadia's steep,  
Darts,—in the deep her burning heart to hide ;  
There Hero loves her fruitless watch to keep,  
With waving torch, by Helle's stormy tide !

And by her rock on Naxos' desert shore,  
With streaming eyes, and clasped, beseeching hands  
Outstretched to one, who will return no more,  
The fond, too trusting Ariadne stands !

Still Hero's love and faithful sorrow live ;  
Leander's daring heart and vigorous arm ;—  
Still Sappho's wild, despairing griefs survive  
In kindred hearts as erring and as warm.

And many an Ariadne, left to weep  
O'er broken vows her blighted life away ;  
Her hopeless vigils still is doomed to keep ;  
For faith too deep the forfeit sad to pay.

Beautiful dreams, though sorrowful as sweet,  
Cold is the creed that would your truth deny ;  
Is woman's deep, devoted love a cheat ;  
Or man's caprice a thing of days gone by ?

Land of heroic deeds and deathless song ;  
Though thou canst never be thyself again ;  
Though parricidal hands have wrought thee wrong  
That makes all hope for thee but wild and vain ;

Till Valour, Wisdom, Genius, Liberty,  
Stars of this nether sphere, have ceased to shine ;  
Thy sacred name the trumpet-call shall be ;  
To wake ennobling thoughts of thee and thine !

LEAVES FROM A POET'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

WRITTEN ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTHOR'S BIRTHDAY,  
UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF GREAT MENTAL DEPRESSION.

TELL me not a radiant morrow  
Follows oft the gloomiest night ;  
That the darkest cloud of sorrow  
Sometimes hides a world of light ;  
If the heart hath long been pining,  
Faint and sick with hope's delay,  
And the star above us shining,  
Veils from earth its guiding ray.

Evil days have overtaken,  
With their storm-charged clouds my way ;  
And my soul, till now unshaken,  
Shrinks within its coil of clay :  
Even the Muse,—invoked not often,  
Save to soothe the spirit's wrong,  
Pride to tame, or grief to soften,—  
Half withholds the power of Song !

Foul Oppression, fiercer, stronger,  
That her step I strove to stay,  
Till my feeble arm no longer  
Might her trampling hoofs delay,—  
Treads me down : no more my trust is  
In my buoyant faith of old ;

What can Reason, Truth, or Justice,  
'Gainst the giant might of gold !

Stormy skies are lowering o'er me ;  
Raging billows gird me round ;  
And the gloom that spreads before me  
Grows but more and more profound :  
Not a beacon-light is left me,  
To my distant port a clew ;  
Fate, at one fell swoop, hath reft me  
Of both chart and compass too !

Like a gallant ship succumbing,  
That no more obeys her helm,  
Bide I now the tenth wave coming,  
With its mandate to o'erwhelm :  
O'er my hopes, a clean breach making,  
Sweeps that flood of wreck and wrong ;  
Rending stays, and bulwarks breaking,  
Which I once believed so strong !

Whilst upon the scene of ruin,  
From his covert safe on high,  
On the storm his work is doing,  
Glares the Wrecker's baleful eye !  
As the stout ship goes to pieces,  
Torn each stalwart limb from limb,  
How his sordid joy increases,  
If some fragment drifts to him !

Once, of old, my glad way winning,  
Youth and Hope both led me on ;  
Now, once more the world beginning,  
Hope and Youth alike are gone :

Sad Experience, bought how dearly,  
 Cruel, seldom to be kind;  
 Like the stern-light, shows too clearly  
 But the track we leave behind!

Friends with whom in youth I started  
 On life's first adventurous way,  
 Once so warm and genial-hearted,  
 One by one have dropped away!  
 Some, earth's vain turmoil exchanging  
 For the land that knows no wrong;  
 Others Fortune's smiles estranging  
 From the weak, when *they* grow strong!

Summer friends, like swallows trooping,  
 Come when sunshine warms the heart,  
 But at winter's advent drooping,  
 For less chilling skies depart:  
 Foes, like stormy petrels flocking  
 'Round the doomed and labouring bark,  
 Deepening woe, misfortune mocking,  
 Come when heaven is wild and dark!

Many a year, ambition dulling,  
 Irksome labour claimed my pen;  
 At the oar incessant pulling  
 'Mid the stir and strife of men!  
 From more calm pursuits diverted  
 To a task I plied in vain,  
 Tastes abandoned, haunts deserted,  
 Which, though late, I seek again!

Long Fate's adverse current cleaving,  
 With a bold and sturdy stroke,

Hoping still, and still believing,  
Did I bear that galling yoke !  
Day and night, not seldom, toiling,  
Wanting that which sweetens toil ;  
Life of half its joys despoiling,  
Bartering peace for wild turmoil !

Manhood's vigorous prime exhausted ;  
All the flowering years of life ;  
Health impaired, acquirements wasted  
In that long and fruitless strife ;  
Just as Fortune's tide was turning,  
And my respite all but won ;  
For the hard-earned haven yearning,  
But for others' sakes alone ;

Lawless Rapine, hundred-handed,  
Sordid, cunning, bold, and strong,  
With her base familiars banded,  
Falsehood, Fraud, Revenge, and Wrong ;  
Of that poor reward bereft me ;  
Swept my household Gods away ;  
Ravaged even my hearth, and left me,  
Save in heaven, no single stay !

But the great and just Redresser,  
(Who may 'scape unscathed HIS frown ?)  
That can strike the rich oppressor  
In his rampant triumph down ;  
May vouchsafe me his protection,  
Sweeten even this bitter cup ;  
And from "profitless dejection"  
Lift my trampled spirit up !

## A LADY IN A FLORENTINE COSTUME.

ART thou some vision of the olden time ;  
Some glowing type of beauty, faded long ;  
A radiant daughter of that radiant clime,  
Renowned for sunshine, chivalry, and song ?

Was it for thee that Tasso woke in vain  
The love-lorn 'plainings of his matchless lyre ;  
Was thine the frown that chilled him with disdain,—  
Crushed his wild hopes, and quenched his minstrel fire ?

Or art thou she for whom young Guido pined ;  
Whom Raffaelle saw in his impassioned dream ;  
The ray that flashed, in slumber, on his mind,  
And o'er his canvass shed so bright a beam ?

No, no ;—a masquer in its gay attire,  
A breathing mockery of Ausonia's grace ;—  
Thine is a charm as fitted to inspire,  
With more than all their sweetness in thy face.

I see thee stand, in beauty's richest bloom,—  
In youth's first budding spring,—before me now ;  
A shade of tenderest sadness, not of gloom,  
Tempering the brightness of thy jewelled brow !

Thy dark hair clustering 'round thy pensive face,  
Like shadowy clouds about a summer-moon ;

Thy fair hands folded with a queenly grace ;  
Thy cheek soft blushing like the rose in June.

Thine eyelid gently drooping o'er an eye  
Whose chastened light bespeaks the soul within ;  
Lips full of sweetness ; maiden modesty,  
That awes the bosoms it hath deigned to win.

There stand for aye ; defying Time or Care  
To make thee seem less beautiful than now ;  
Years cannot thin that darkly-flowing hair,  
Nor grief indent thy pure and polished brow.

Whilst unto her from whom those lines had birth,  
A briefer span but brighter doom is given ;  
To wane and wither like a thing of earth,  
And only know immortal bloom in heaven.

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### TO CAROLINE BOWLES.

NOW MRS. SOUTHEY.

I KNOW thee only in thy page  
Of simplest truth, by taste refined ;—  
But though I ne'er have seen thy face,  
Not seldom, do I love to trace  
The features of thy mind !

Pure as the calm, sequestered stream,  
That winds its way through flowers and fern ;

Now gliding here, now wandering there,  
Diffusing coolness everywhere,  
Refreshing all in turn :—

So do thy strains, serene and sweet,  
Well from their calm, untroubled shrine :  
Winning their way from heart to heart,  
And healing many a mourner's smart,  
With balsam, half divine !

What though I ne'er have clasped thy hand,  
I see thee oft in Fancy's glass ;  
“Edwin” and “Ranger” in thy train,  
Pacing across the village plain,  
The “Broken Bridge” to pass.

And mark thy devious footsteps threading  
The “Churchyard's” green and grassy rise :  
Now, stopping by some fresh-made grave,  
News of the timeless dead to crave,  
To make the living wise.

Or by the “open casement sitting,”  
With “autumn's latest flowers” before thee :  
Drinking thy “Birdie's” merry notes,  
Or tracking the sun as he proudly floats  
To his haven of rest and glory.

And when gray Twilight weaves her web,  
And the sounds of day-life melt away ;  
In thy “garden-plot” I see thee stand,  
Watching the “night-stock's” leaves expand,  
Or framing some soothing lay.

Some low, sweet dirge, of softest power  
To stir the bosom's inmost strings ;—  
When friends departed, pleasures fled,  
Or a sinless infant's dying bed,  
Are the themes thy fancy brings.

Oh ! much I love to steal away  
From garish strains, that mock my heart ;  
To steep my soul in lays like thine,  
And pause, o'er each wildly-witching line,  
Till my tears, unbidden, start.

For thou hast ever been to me  
A gentle monitor and friend ;—  
And I have gathered from thy song,  
Thoughts full of balm for grief and wrong,  
That solace while they mend.

Hence, have I sought in simple phrase,  
To give my gratitude a tongue ;  
And if one stricken heart I bring,  
For comfort, to the self-same spring,  
Not vainly have I sung.

Adieu ! We ne'er may meet on earth,  
Yet I feel I know thee passing well ;—  
And when a pensive face I see,  
Fair as my cherished thoughts of thee,  
I'll deem it thine—FAREWELL !

## A WITHERED ROSE.

IN A VOLUME OF UNPUBLISHED POEMS, BY MISS G. F. ROSS.

NAY, do not touch that faded flower,  
Albeit both scent and hue have flown,  
For it may still retain a power  
    Some gentle heart may joy to own :  
Hidden beneath each withered leaf,  
    A chastening spell, to memory dear ;  
May yield that burthened heart relief,  
    When HOPE itself is sere.

There let it lie, 'mid records sweet,  
    By feeling prompted, genius graced ;  
Type of their fate, memorial meet  
    Of "young affections run to waste!"  
Left on their stem—how fugitive—  
    Those cherished leaves had soon been shed ;  
But thus embalmed, will seem to live,  
    Till MEMORY's self be dead !

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## THE NAMELESS TOAST.

HEALTH to ONE whose cherished name,  
'Twere a mockery here to tell ;

Jocund friends forbear to blame,  
 If I keep my secret well !  
 Not when revelry grows loud,  
 And the jest and song abound,—  
 To a holier worship vowed,—  
 Would I whisper such a sound !

'Tis not incense offered to her,  
 In my hours of heartless mirth ;  
 But a homage deeper, truer,  
 That may best beseem her worth ;  
 Yet the toast I will not pass,  
 In my heart of hearts I'll think it ;—  
 Fill me then a brimming glass,  
 And to HER I LOVE I'll drink it !

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### THE RETURN FROM INDIA.

“ But when returned the youth ? The youth no more  
 Returned exulting to his native shore ;  
 But forty years were past, and then there came  
 A worn-out man.”

CRAEBBE.

THE haunts of my boyhood are gleaming around me,  
 All bright in the sunshine that graced them of yore ;  
 But where are the heart-cherished hopes that have bound me  
 Through the changes of years to this fondly loved shore ?  
 Can the riches of earth, that like curses surround me,  
 Life’s young dream of delight to my longings restore ?

The same summer landscape beside me is smiling ;  
 The same summer ocean before me is spread ;

All transparent as truth, and in peace as beguiling,  
As when first from these shores o'er its waters I sped ;  
My lorn heart from each home-nurtured vision exiling,  
To return when the hopes that were fairest had fled.

Accursed be the fatal ambition that bore me  
From yon vale of repose and its transports untold ;  
Accursed the dark spell that so long lingered o'er me,  
And detained me from bliss, though with fetters of gold :  
Can my dearly-earned wealth for one moment restore me  
The feelings and thoughts that enchanted of old !

But a few painful years,—so I thought in my sorrow,—  
And my spirit shall break so degrading a chain ;  
Yet another, one more, from life's sunshine I'll borrow,  
Then seek the green haunts of my childhood again :  
Seasons waned, wealth increased, still I spake of the morrow ;  
Now the bubble hath burst, and I seek them in vain !

Though the tears when our last parting moments were fleeting,  
And my bark had unfurled her white wings in the bay,  
Were heart-rending and wild, and unwelcome the greeting  
That called me from home's calm enjoyments away,—  
Far keener my anguish, more bitter my meeting  
With the friends who are waiting to clasp me to-day !

The willow I planted, meek mourner, is drooping  
Its silver-green boughs yon bright streamlet beside ;—  
What a host of sad thoughts on my memory is trooping,  
Of joys that have withered, and hopes that have died,  
As I turn from that tree, in humility stooping,  
To *my* stubborner dreams of ambition and pride !

Every bush with a burst of wild music is ringing ;  
Not a breath but is loaded with odours divine ;  
In the old trysting-thorn its lone blackbird is singing  
A descant of grief o'er the day-star's decline ;  
And the lark to her nest in the clover is winging  
Her way, with a heart how much lighter than mine !

There the old village church in the radiance is burning,  
With its tall chancel-window all flashing with fire ;  
And its glossy green ivy, sun-chequered, is turning  
To gold, as of yore, but seems broader and higher :  
Oh, would that my heart, for calm happiness yearning,  
Thus had learned in the precincts of peace to aspire !

What a brood of fond thoughts to my heart-strings are  
clinging ;  
In each tree, each gray stone, some sad record I see ;  
Not a breath o'er yon low garden wall but is flinging  
A perfume abroad that is vocal to me :  
Not a sight, not a sound, not a scent but is bringing  
Some vision of bliss that no longer may be.

'Neath the roof-tree I stand that o'ershadows the dwelling  
That once shielded my childhood from sorrow and sin ;  
With what breathless emotion my bosom is swelling,  
Now the haven is gained I've so panted to win ;—  
All WITHOUT is the same ; but low whispers are telling  
Of the heart-wringing changes that 'wait me WITHIN !

Ay, wild is my grief as I gaze on my mother,  
In the tears of her dotage decrepid and weak ;  
As I shrink from the time-wrinkled brow of my brother,  
My sister's sad smile, and her care-stricken cheek ;—

Then look round for the welcome and kiss of another ;  
Till a glance hath revealed more than language can speak !

Scarce a blessing remains but is darkened or faded ;  
Scarce a friend of my youth but is dead or estranged ;  
Not a vision of hope my fond fancy had braided,  
But some bliss-blighting chance hath destroyed or de-  
ranged ;—  
Not a promise of joy, but some sorrow has shaded ;  
Not a dear one is left, save in spirit, unchanged.

Wealth and honours are mine : but can riches secure me  
The sinless enjoyments of days that are flown,  
Can the phantom of Fame that from home could allure me,  
For the blessings I've bartered to gain it atone ?  
Fatal gifts, in my anguish of soul I abjure ye ;  
All that sweetened and brightened existence is gone !

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### THE POET'S HOME.

“Thus in this calm retreat so richly fraught  
With mental light and luxury of thought,  
His life steals on.”

ROGERS.

’Tis the “leafy month of June,”  
And the faintly glimmering moon,  
In the East her cresset rearing,  
Shows that summer’s eve is wearing ;  
But the sun is lingering still  
O’er the old accustomed hill ;

Twilight's shadows hovering 'round him,  
Like a king, when foes surround him,  
Gathering, since he scorns to fly,  
Life's last energies to die !  
See, the parting god of day  
Leaves a trail upon his way,  
Like the memory of the dead  
When the sainted soul hath fled ;  
And it chequers all the skies  
With its bright, innumerable dyes !

Not a sound disturbs the hush,  
Save the silver streamlet's gush,  
As it leaps, with many a bound,  
From the depth of shades profound ;  
Now through tangled brushwood straying,  
Now o'er velvet moss delaying,  
But, while seeming most to stay,  
Gliding fast as bliss away :  
Cooling zephyrs bathe the brow,  
With delicious fragrance now ;  
Incense sweet from many a bower,  
Odours from each closing flower,  
Breathed from yon sequestered vale,  
O'er the charméd sense prevail,  
Till the pulse forgets to move,  
And the heart is drunk with love !

Where yon wide clematis flings  
Far and wide its starry rings,  
Where the graceful jasmine's braid  
Makes a green, eye-soothing shade,

And their shoots united rove  
High the trellised porch above,  
Deep embowered from vulgar ken,  
Seek we now a Poet's Den !  
Knock ; no pampered menial there,  
Rising from his cushioned chair,  
With a supercilious eye,  
Will measure your gentility ;  
And, if strange to rank and state,  
Entrance bar, or bid you wait ;  
For the gentlest tap may win  
Him you seek to let you in,  
If for gentle deeds your name  
Homage of his heart may claim :  
Though Ambition's gorgeous train,  
Welcome there may seek in vain ;  
And full-blown Pride, whate'er her store,  
There, never finds an open door ;  
Though Fortune seldom roams that way,  
And ne'er can be beguiled to stay,  
And Wisdom, and her sister Reason,  
Are visiters but once a season ;  
Yet Genius, with his laurel crown,  
Not seldom quits the madding town,  
Sick of its tumult, dust, and glare,  
To breathe a little country air ;  
And there, with Taste his guide, alights  
To set his ruffled wings to rights ;—  
Content, until he soars anew,  
There to find “ audience meet though few.”

Yes, it is sweet, from care and toil,  
The busy Babel's wild turmoil,

The hollow and obstreperous crowd,  
Its Io Pæans long and loud,  
Its worthless idols, worshipped, till  
Deposed by idols baser still,—  
To steal away, and taste the bliss  
Of quiet, in a nook like this !  
With all that can to earth endear one,  
And only kindred spirits near one ;  
All that to life enjoyment lends,  
Books, leisure, health, and cherished friends :  
With nothing in the world to do,  
But range yon ample garden through,  
Or loiter in the chequered shade,  
By these wide-spreading branches made ;  
Suspend the dripping oar, and dream,  
Hour after hour, on yonder stream,  
That winds its flowery meads among,  
Radiant as Hope, when Hope was young,  
With all the rainbow colours rife  
That sometimes make a heaven of life.  
But bend your head, and pass between  
Yon climbing jasmine's tendrils green ;  
Put thoughts of grandeur and of pride,  
With its intrusive boughs aside,  
And, each sublimer fancy quelling,  
Enter a Poet's humble dwelling ;  
Nor start, if 'neath that roof you find  
Some tokens of his heart and mind !

Bright confusion revels there,  
And seldom had a realm more fair :  
'Tis a wilderness of mind,  
Redolent of tastes refined ;

Tomes of wild, romantic lore,  
Culled from Fancy's richest store ;  
(Caskets full of gems sublime  
From the teeming sea of Time ;)  
Poets, Fame herself hath crowned,  
People all the walls around :  
Homer's Tale of Troy divine ;  
Rough old Chaucer's racy line ;  
Sweetest Spenser's honied rhymes ;  
Shakspero's "mirror for all times ;"  
Stately Milton's lofty hymn  
Of embattled Seraphim ;  
Dryden's flood, that sweeps along  
Like a river broad and strong ;  
Polished Pope's melodious wit,  
As summer lightning keen and bright ;  
Records of "sweet Auburn's" fate,  
Her primal bliss and ruined state,  
That 'round her blighted bowers have thrown  
A halo courts have never known,  
And made her name the cherished theme,  
Of many an exiled wanderer's dream ;  
Pensive Collins' silvery lay ;  
Thoughts that breathe of forceful Gray ;  
Ayr's proud peasant's words of flame,  
(Scotland's glory and her shame !)  
He who sang the fireside bright,  
Of the cotter's winter night,  
And the suppliant group that raise  
To heaven their notes of prayer and praise,  
With that deep and fervent zeal,  
Lowly hearts alone can feel.

Mystic fragments strew the ground,  
Like the oracles profound  
Of the Delphic prophetess,  
And as difficult to guess !  
Crystal vases filled with flowers  
Fresh from evening's dewy bowers ;  
Knots of ribbon, locks of hair,  
Love-gifts from his lady fair ;  
Violets, blue as are the eyes  
That awake his softest sighs,  
And reward his love-sick lays  
With their smiles of more than praise ;  
Here, a broken, stringless lute ;  
There, a masquer's antic suit ;  
Fencing foils, a Moorish brand,  
Trophies strange from many a land,  
Memory's lights to many a scene  
Where his roving steps have been :  
Armour bright of one who bore  
Chivalry's tried lance of yore ;  
Breast-plate rich, and shield of price,  
Veined with many a quaint device,  
Sword of proof, and mailéd glove,  
With the crested helm above ;  
And many a pictured form of grace,  
Many a sweet but pensive face,  
Stamped in Beauty's richest bloom,  
Sheds its halo through the room ;  
Like the smile of primal Light,  
Making even Chaos bright !  
Raffaelle's more than mortal grace ;  
Guido's sad, imploring face ;





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*The Iris.*

Dolce's Man of many woes;  
Claude's surpassing bright Repose;  
Stothard's woodland groups, that seem  
Emanations of a dream;  
Such as sweetest Una, when  
"Compassed 'round by savage men;"  
Or the "Lady" pure as fair,  
Who left unharmed the "enchanted Chair;"  
Howard's elfin forms that rise  
With the rainbow to the skies,  
In the "plighted clouds that play"  
Through the livelong summer day;  
Or with fair Sabrina, come  
From her coral palace home,  
'Neath the "cool, translucent wave,"  
Innocence from guile to save;  
Or with printless, flying feet,  
When, by moonlight, fairies meet,  
Tripping o'er the ribbed sea-sand  
At the elfin queen's command,  
As the swift waves ebb and flow,  
Dancing, glancing, to and fro.

Mark those infant twins that kneel,  
Side by side, in joint appeal  
To their Father, throned on high,  
And with song would glorify  
His exceeding Grace, that they  
Have been spared another day!  
Who can look on them, nor deem  
Heaven the fittest home for them!  
Purest of created things,  
Wanting only angel-wings,

To put off earth's coil and rise  
Into worlds beyond the skies,  
Hallelujahs there to sing  
Worthy Heaven's eternal King !  
Hark ! the Saviour seems to say,  
Suffer, nor forbid that they  
Come where I have led the way !  
Peril not their lasting bliss,  
For of such my kingdom is !  
Oh ! if innocence so young,  
Heart unschooled and simple tongue,  
To the bliss may thus attain  
Which so many seek in vain ;  
What, with all their learnéd lore,  
Can earth's wise ones hope for more !

Lo ! where yon uplifted eyes  
Seem to commune with the skies,  
And rebuke all human passion  
With their silent adoration ;  
Penitential tears revealing  
All the bruiséd heart is feeling !  
Not in vain that heart is riven,  
She repents, and is forgiven !  
See that Virgin Mother mild,  
Bending o'er her radiant child,  
With affection so intense  
It absorbs each other sense ;  
And, half unmindful of his birth,  
She loves him like a thing of earth ;  
Till the light around him streaming,  
Straight dispels her low-born dreaming !  
Would you learn to suffer ? Bow  
To yon thorn-encircled brow !

Can earth's common griefs compare  
With the woe depicted there ;  
Or its keenest tortures vie  
With that mortal agony ?  
Bow the head, and bend the knee,  
Such the anguish borne for thee !  
Look upon that sunset ocean,  
With its undulating motion,  
'Neath the flood of radiance glowing,  
And with scarce a murmur flowing :  
Not a ripple but grows bright,  
In its own peculiar light ;  
Not a tree or ruin hoary,  
But puts on its garb of glory ;  
Not a ship or headland bold,  
But is steeped in burnished gold !

Look ! A garden, trim and fair,  
Exuding on the pearly air,  
Subtle odours that dispense  
Vigour to each drooping sense,  
And can bid the soul arise  
Like the lark into the skies !  
There, no dreadful Dragon keeps  
Watch and ward, and never sleeps ;  
Nor are yon luxuriant trees,  
Guarded by the Hesperides :  
But a band, perchance as fair,  
Pleasure-bound, are loitering there,  
Plucking now a flower, or fruit,  
Training now some vagrant shoot ;  
Here o'er dew-charged roses bending,  
There a broken lily tending ;

And, on tip-toe, striving now  
To bring down the richest bough ;  
Which, as old-world sages teach,  
Always grows beyond the reach.

Look again ! A woodland scene,  
And 'neath its umbrageous screen,  
Where the sun's leaf-mellowed light  
Falls attempered on the sight,  
Like wind-troubled flowers that bend  
Wheresoe'er the breeze may tend,  
Swaying here, or stooping there,  
To each impulse of the air,  
Gay and graceful forms advance,  
Mingling in the mazy dance !  
All as light of heart as though  
Death could never lay them low !

By the open lattice sitting,  
Fevered dreams of beauty flitting  
O'er his heart and o'er his brain,  
In one bright, unbroken chain ;  
Drinking deep, through every sense,  
Draughts of pleasure too intense ;  
Mark the Poet's glistening eye,  
Wandering now o'er earth and sky !  
'Tis a blissful hour to him,  
Slave of feeling, child of whim,  
Builder of the lofty rhyme,  
Bard, Musician, Painter, Mime ;  
Ever swayed by impulse strong,  
Each by turns, but nothing long !  
Still in search of idle toys,  
Pining after fancied joys ;

All that charmed his heart and eye,  
Sought—possessed—and then thrown by !  
Doomed on shadows thus to brood,  
Whilst life's more substantial good,  
All that wiser bosoms prize,  
Fades like day from yonder skies.

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## THE DEATH OF THE FIRST-BORN.

“Fare thee well, thou first and fairest!”

BURNS.

My sweet one, my sweet one, the tears were in my eyes  
When first I clasped thee to my heart, and heard thy feeble  
cries ;—  
For I thought of all that I had borne, as I bent me down to  
kiss  
Thy cherry lips, and sunny brow, my first-born bud of bliss !  
  
I turned to many a withered hope, to years of grief and pain,  
And the cruel wrongs of a bitter world flashed o'er my boding  
brain ;—  
I thought of friends, grown worse than cold, of persecuting  
foes,  
And I asked of Heaven if ills like these must mar thy youth's  
repose !

I gazed upon thy quiet face, half blinded by my tears,—  
Till gleams of bliss, unfelt before, came brightening on my  
fears ;—  
Sweet rays of hope that fairer shone 'mid the clouds of gloom  
that bound them,  
As stars dart down their loveliest light when midnight skies  
are 'round them.

My sweet one, my sweet one, thy life's brief hour is o'er,  
And a father's anxious fears for thee can fever me no more !  
And for the hopes, the sun-bright hopes, that blossomed at  
thy birth,—  
They too have fled, to prove how frail are cherished things of  
earth !

'Tis true that thou wert young, my child, but though brief  
thy span below,  
To me it was a little age of agony and woe ;  
For, from thy first faint dawn of life thy cheek began to fade,  
And my lips had scarce thy welcome breathed, ere my hopes  
were wrapt in shade.

Oh, the child in its hours of health and bloom that is dear as  
thou wert then,  
Grows far more prized, more fondly loved, in sickness and in  
pain,  
And thus 'twas thine to prove, dear babe, when every hope  
was lost,  
Ten times more precious to my soul, for all that thou hadst  
cost !

Cradled in thy fair mother's arms, we watched thee, day by  
day,  
Pale like the second bow of Heaven, as gently waste away ;  
And, sick with dark foreboding fears, we dared not breathe  
aloud,  
Sat, hand in hand, in speechless grief, to wait death's coming  
cloud !

It came at length ;—o'er thy bright blue eye the film was  
gathering fast,—  
And an awful shade passed o'er thy brow, the deepest and the  
last ;

In thicker gushes strove thy breath,—we raised thy drooping head ;—

A moment more—the final pang—and thou wert of the dead !

Thy gentle mother turned away to hide her face from me,  
And murmured low of Heaven's behests, and bliss attained by thee ;—

She would have chid me that I mourned a doom so blest as thine,

Had not her own deep grief burst forth in tears as wild as mine !

We laid thee down in thy sinless rest, and from thine infant brow

Culled one soft lock of radiant hair, our only solace now ;  
Then placed around thy beauteous corse, flowers, not more fair and sweet,—

Twin rosebuds in thy little hands, and jasmine at thy feet.

Though other offspring still be ours, as fair perchance as thou,  
With all the beauty of thy cheek, the sunshine of thy brow,—  
They never can replace the bud our early fondness nursed ;  
They may be lovely and beloved, but not, like thee, the FIRST !

The FIRST ! How many a memory bright that one sweet word can bring,

Of hopes that blossomed, drooped, and died, in life's delightful spring ;—

Of fervid feelings passed away—those early seeds of bliss  
That germinate in hearts unseeded by such a world as this !

My sweet one, my sweet one, my fairest and my First !

When I think of what thou mightst have been, my heart is like to burst ;

But gleams of gladness through my gloom their soothing  
radiance dart,  
And my sighs are hushed, my tears are dried, when I turn to  
what thou art !

Pure as the snow-flake ere it falls and takes the stain of earth,  
With not a taint of mortal life except thy mortal birth,  
God bade thee early taste the spring for which so many thirst,  
And bliss, eternal bliss, is thine, my Fairest and my First !

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### THE WHARFE REVISITED.

YET once again, bright river, once again,  
I come to tread thy wild and winding shore !  
What blissful moments, and what hours of pain,  
Hath my soul numbered, since the Muses' lore  
Last on thy banks I conned. But not in vain  
Hath life for me its chequered page unrolled  
Of varied grief and joy ; I now behold  
Its shifting scenes, and Iris-tinted train,  
With calmer eye and less impassioned heart :  
True, I have seen full many a hope decay,  
And cherished visions like thy waves depart ;  
Yet other dreams, as fair perchance as they,  
Unto my world-worn spirit have been given,  
Filled, like thy radiant face, with hues of light from heaven !

## WE PLIGHTED VOWS TOGETHER.

We plighted vows together,  
When all Nature 'round looked gay,  
In the bright and genial weather,  
Of the merry month of May;  
When the buds had opened into flower,  
The cuckoo taken wing,  
To herald, with her voice of power,  
To other lands the Spring !

We plighted vows together,  
When earth wore her richest green,  
On the birch-tree's silvery feather  
When a deeper shade was seen ;  
The laburnum, spendthrift of our bower,  
Its gold had dropped around ;  
And the hawthorn blossom's snowy shower  
Was whitening all the ground !

When we plighted vows together,  
May was melting into June,  
And the smiles of that bright weather  
Taught the brook a lower tune ;  
Whose music, though it soothed mine ear,  
And bade my soul rejoice,  
Was not so silver-sweet and clear  
As the heart-tones of thy voice !

When we plighted vows together,  
Scarce a sound beside was heard,  
Through the far and cloudless ether,  
Save the carol of a bird ;  
Or the honey-bee's glad humming,  
As she bore her sweets away ;  
For she knew 'twas summer coming,  
And like all the world was gay !

When we plighted vows together,  
No sad future met our ken,  
For we thought that sunny weather  
Would always smile as then ;  
And, that if May gave way to June,  
Those laughing skies would last :  
Alas ! how darkly, and how soon,  
Our heaven was overcast !

Since we plighted vows together,  
In the merry month of May,  
Oh, how stormy wild the weather  
That has crossed our onward way !  
Spring, Summer, Autumn, all are gone,  
With their chequered gloom and glow ;  
Yet, far off the goal in fancy won  
So many years ago !

The faith we pledged together  
Has known nor chill nor change,  
And wedlock's silken tether  
Has brought no wish to range ;  
For our hearts are warm as when of old,  
Love's trysting bower within,

Our guileless passion to unfold,  
We never deemed a sin !

Since we trod life's path together,  
What wild changes have we known ;  
Hopes, that blossomed but to wither,  
Joys, unheeded, all, till flown !  
But can Winter freeze Love's genial spring,  
In hearts like ours that flows ?  
No ; let him come, so he but bring  
His wisdom with his snows !

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## THE SLEEPING CUPID OF GUIDO.

A SKETCH FROM THE WELL-KNOWN PICTURE IN THE GALLERY OF  
EARL FITZWILLIAM.

### I.

'TIS summer's softest eve ; the winds are laid,  
The jarring sounds of day-life are at rest,  
And all is calm and soothing ; not a shade  
Mars the blue beauty of the skies : the west,  
Gathering its hues of splendour from the crest  
Of yonder setting sun, is changing fast  
From sapphire to bright gold ; old ocean's breast  
Is one broad plain without a cloud o'ercast ;  
'Tis day's divinest hour, its loveliest, and its last.

### II.

Tired of his sport, the wreck of human hearts,  
There on his mother's couch in slumber bound,

The God of Love reclines;—his idle darts,  
Those ministers of woe, lie scattered 'round :  
But that he guards, amid his dreams profound,  
With so much jealous care, his unstrung bow,  
How might we now his vaunted strength confound ;  
From his own quiver pay the debt we owe,  
And, with one keen, bright shaft, pierce our unconscious foe !

## III.

But who would wound a breast so passing fair !  
Look ! in immortal beauty where he lies :  
His flushed cheek pillow'd on his hand ; his hair  
Clustering, like sun-touched clouds in summer skies,  
Around his glorious brow ;—his twice-sealed eyes  
With silken-fringed lids, like flowers that close  
Their dewy cups at eve ;—and lips whose dyes  
Rival the crimson of the damask rose,  
Wreathed with a thousand charms, all sweetness and repose.

## IV.

Hush ! for a footfall may disturb his sleep ;  
Hush even your breathing, for a breath may break  
His visioned trance ! But no, 'tis deep, most deep ;  
The last low sigh of evening fans his cheek,  
And stirs his golden curls ; the last bright streak  
Of parting day is fading from the west ;  
Dim clouds are gathering round yon mountain's peak,  
Yet still he sleeps ; and his soft-heaving breast,  
Bright wings, brow, lips, and eyes, are redolent of rest.

## V.

Love, O young Love, how beautiful thou art !  
The brightest dream that ever poet feigned

May scarce compare with thee ! What though thy dart  
 The blood of many a gentle breast hath stained ;  
 What though thy godlike powers thou hast profaned,  
 And proved to some an evil deity ;  
 Yet, in thy softer moods, hast thou sustained  
 Full many a sinking heart, and thoughts of thee  
 Have often stilled the waves of this life's stormy sea !

## VI.

Thou art, indeed, omnipotent—divine !  
 And the wide world is vocal with thy name :  
 Princes and peasants bow before thy shrine ;  
 Whilst gentle Woman, in all lands the same,  
 For good or evil, oftenest swells thy fame !  
 Noble and serf, the despot and the slave,  
 (For even the slave, if Love his homage claim,  
 May wear a double chain), thy shafts must brave,  
 And own thy mighty power to ruin or to save !

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## THE FISHERMAN'S HYMN TO THE VIRGIN.

WHEN the lightnings flash on high,  
 And deep thunders rend the sky ;  
 When the frantic hurricane  
 Makes all human efforts vain ;  
 When the mighty ship is driven,  
 Tempest-tossed, from earth to heaven,  
 And, reeling then beneath the blow,  
 Dives deep to ocean-caves below ;

Thou the Fisher's bark canst guide  
Safely o'er the raging tide !  
Star of the Sea, to Thine and Thee,  
All glory now and ever be !

Ships with all their bravery on  
Have in stormless seas gone down ;  
Some 'neath War's torpedo shocks,  
Others, pierced by hidden rocks,  
Have their timbers opened wide  
To the calm but treacherous tide ;  
One, in port that rode supine,  
Disappeared, and made no sign ;  
Whilst the Fisher's bark will ride  
Safely o'er the fitful tide :  
Star of the Sea, to Thine and Thee,  
All glory now and ever be !

For HIS blessed sake, who chose,  
As his prime disciples, those  
Who upon the mighty deep  
Once the Fisher's watch would keep,  
But became, with purer ken,  
Fishers of their fellow-men ;—  
Bade them be of steadfast cheer,  
And nor blast nor billow fear ;  
Holiest Mother, Virgin fair,  
Make my fragile bark thy care :  
Star of the Sea, to Thine and Thee,  
All glory now and ever be !

For HIS blessed sake, whose will  
Winds and waves at once could still,

And the labouring bark transport  
Straightway to her destined port ;  
To her trembling crew, who said,  
“ It is I, be not afraid ; ”  
And when Peter trod the wave,  
Stretched his gracious hand to save ;  
Holiest Mother, Virgin fair,  
Make this little bark thy care !  
Star of the Sea, to Thine and Thee,  
All glory now and ever be !

For His sake who fishers three  
Up the Mountain led, that He  
Might unto their favoured eyes  
Prove His mission from the skies ;  
And in raiment, dazzling white,  
Stood before their wondering sight,  
Bidding them reveal to men  
What no eye had marked till then ;  
Holiest Mother, Virgin fair,  
Make the Fisher's bark thy care !  
Star of the Sea, to Thine and Thee,  
All glory now and ever be !

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## THE BACHELOR'S DILEMMA.

By all the sweet saints in the Missal of Love,  
They are both so intensely, bewitchingly fair,  
That, let Folly look solemn, and Wisdom reprove,  
I can't make up my mind which to choose of the pair.

There is Fanny, whose eye is as blue and as bright  
As the depths of spring skies in their noon-tide array ;  
Whose every soft feature is gleaming in light,  
Like the ripple of waves on a sunshiny day :

Whose form, like the willow, so slender and lithe,  
Has a thousand wild motions of lightness and grace ;  
Whose innocent heart, ever buoyant and blithe,  
Is the home of the sweetness that breathes from her face.

There is Helen, more stately of gesture and mien,  
Whose beauty a world of dark ringlets enshrouds ;  
With the black, regal eye, and the step of a queen,  
And a brow like the moon breaking forth from the clouds :

With a bosom whose chords are so tenderly strung,  
That a word, nay a look, will awaken its sighs ;  
With a face, like the heart-searching tones of her tongue,  
Full of music that charms both the simple and wise.

In my moments of mirth, amid glitter and glee,  
When my soul takes the hue that is brightest of any,  
From her sister's enchantment my spirit is free,  
And the bumper I quaff is a bumper to Fanny !

But, when shadows come o'er me of sickness or grief,  
And my heart with a host of wild fancies is swelling,  
From the blaze of her brightness I turn for relief  
To the pensive and peace-breathing beauty of Helen !

“ And when sorrow and joy are so blended together,  
That to weep I'm unwilling, to smile am as loth ;  
When the beam may be kicked by the weight of a feather ;  
I would fain keep it even—by wedding them both !

But since I *must* fix on black eyes or blue,  
 Quickly make up my mind 'twixt a Grace and a Muse ;  
 Pr'ythee Venus, instruct me that course to pursue  
 Which even Paris himself had been puzzled to choose !"

Thus murmured a Bard,—predetermined to marry ;  
 But so equally charmed by a Muse and a Grace,  
 That though one of his suits might be doomed to miscarry,  
 He'd another he straight could prefer in its place.

So, trusting that "Fortune would favour the brave,"  
 He asked each in her turn, but they both said him nay ;  
 Lively Fanny declared he was somewhat too grave,  
 And Saint Helen pronounced him a little too gay !

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### KING PEDRO'S REVENGE.

The following verses are founded on a striking passage in the life of Pedro I. of Portugal, the husband of the fair, but ill-starred Inez de Castro. One of the first acts of Don Pedro, after his accession to the throne of Portugal, was to compel the King of Castile to deliver over to his vengeance the murderers of his wife, who, on the death of his father, Alfonso, had fled to the Spanish court for protection. On the day on which the prisoners, with their escort, were expected at Santarem, the King commanded a stupendous funeral pile to be erected upon the plain without the city, and a splendid banquet to be spread beside it. On the arrival of the cavalcade from Castile, the pyre was kindled, and, after addressing to the murderers a few words of eloquent invective, in reply to their earnest supplications for mercy, he directed them to be cast into the flames; whilst he and his assembled nobles sat down to the magnificent banquet that had been prepared for them. In the royal mausoleum of the monastery of Alcobaça are the tombs of Pedro and Inez. The sarcophagus of the King is surmounted by a recumbent effigy, which represents him with a severe countenance, in the act of drawing his sword.

ON Santarém's far-spreading plain,  
There's a rush of helm and spear,  
And the sudden burst of a warlike strain  
Comes dancing on the ear!—  
And the banners wave, and the trumpets wail,  
And the silver cymbals clash;  
And sounds are on the fitful gale  
Like a stormy ocean's dash!

A murmur rises from the crowd  
That girds King Pedro's throne,  
Like the thunder peal that from cloud to cloud,  
In its gathering might, rolls on:  
And the shout that cleaves the noontide sky,  
To a wilder shout gives birth;  
That swells, like an army's battle-cry,  
Till it shakes the solid earth.

'Tis the fierce, triumphant voice of hate;  
Of blood the eager call;  
'Tis the tiger's yell for his slaughtered mate,  
Ere he springs to avenge her fall!  
And ten thousand hearts exult as one,  
When that welcome band draws near;  
And their cry, like the knell of mercy flown,  
Still rings on the doomed ear!

What precious offering do they bring,  
To feed a monarch's pride?—  
A gift more grateful to their king  
Than aught in the world beside!  
Nor gems, nor gold, rich stores of art,  
Barbaric spoils of war,—  
But a treasure to his panting heart  
More prized—more precious far!

The murderers of the martyred Bride  
Who should have shared his crown ;  
The felon slaves that had defied  
So long his iron frown ;—  
Are given to his red hand at last,—  
Stand fettered in his sight ;  
And his kindling glance is on them cast,  
With a fierce and grim delight.

“ Demons ! Nay, bend no fawning knee,  
Your doom is fixed, your sentence said ;  
And such mercy shall ye wring from me  
As ye vouchsafed the sinless dead !  
There’s blood upon your dastard brands  
That blood can only clear again ;  
There’s guilt on those remorseless hands,  
And fire, perchance, may cleanse the stain !

“ Call me not cruel :—ye who turned  
Your swords against a woman’s breast ;  
Her pleading tears and beauty spurned,  
And made her dying pangs your jest ;  
Call me not harsh, that thus I wreak  
Late vengeance on your craven clay :  
Help from a mightier Monarch seek ;—  
For mercy here ’twere vain to pray !

“ Sweet Inez ! by thy guiltless blood,  
Unheeded wail, and fruitless tears ;  
By the love, even death hath not subdued ;  
By the calm delights of our early years ;  
By my widowed couch and withered heart ;  
By my broken hopes and burning brain ;  
By the feeling, now of my life a part ;  
By the vow, I never breathed in vain ;—

“ My vengeance shall not sleep ; and they  
 Who deem thine earthly reign is o'er,  
 Shall yet to thee their homage pay,  
 With awe they never felt before :—  
 Shall see thee sitting by my side,  
 Uprisen from thy dreamless rest ;  
 The sharer of my ‘ place of pride,’—  
 A queen, a saint by all confessed !

“ But hark ! the signal trumpet’s peal ;  
 The pile is laid, the banquet spread :  
 Why gleams so many a glittering steel  
 Above each craven traitor’s head ?  
 Put up your thirsting swords ; ‘ twere vain  
 To give yon pyre a lifeless prey ;—  
 I’ll not abate a single pain  
 To guilt like theirs ;—away ! away !”

’Mid Alcobaça’s storied gloom,  
 Two sculptured effigies recline ;  
 A woman’s one, in youth’s first bloom ;  
 A queen—a saint by many a sign !  
 There’s a crown upon her placid brow,  
 And a regal robe around her thrown ;  
 And charms that bid the gazer bow,  
 Are breathing from that simple stone.

And a warrior king is sleeping near,  
 With his sceptre by his side ;  
 With a knitted brow and a look severe,  
 And a lip of scorn and pride !  
 His hand hath half unsheathed his sword,  
 As if some mortal foe defied ;  
 He breathes some wild, revengeful word ;—  
 ’Twas thus King Pedro died !

## GUARD AGAINST A RAINY DAY.

GUARD against a rainy day ;—

Though the skies be now so fair,  
Yet a little while and they  
May a gloomier aspect wear :  
Fortune, too, so smiling now,  
Seeming all thy hopes to crown,  
Soon may show an altered brow,  
And assume an angry frown !

Guard against a rainy day ;—

What though life were always Spring ;  
Even a smiling morn of May  
Unexpected showers may bring :  
Friendship, though so warm of old,  
Will not bear an adverse sky ;  
Even Love, for lack of gold,  
May unfold his wings and fly !

Gold our master, and our slave,

Can both dictate and obey :  
What is there on earth we crave,  
That will not confess its sway ?  
Honour, friendship, love, and fame,  
Title, power, and men's respect,  
He who highest bids may claim,  
If he be but circumspect.

Call not gold then worthless dross,  
That can purchase wealth like this ;  
And lend virtue's self a gloss,  
Fools might else be fain to miss.  
Jewels, to the vulgar ken,  
Though they be of price untold,  
Are but duly valued, when  
They are set in frames of gold.

Prophecies of future sorrow,  
Who may venture to gainsay ?  
Clouds may break in floods to-morrow,  
Gather honey whilst you may :  
Nor forget to lay up store,  
Where it ne'er can know decay ;  
Spring and summer soon are o'er,  
Guard against a wintry day !

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### HYMN OF TRIUMPH OVER BABYLON.

How hath the fierce oppressor fall'n,  
The Golden City ceased ;  
The sceptre of his power been broke,  
The trampled heart released !  
The staff the wicked loves to wield,  
That long hath ruled the land,  
At length, by an almighty blow,  
Is shivered in his hand !

And he who, in his wanton wrath,  
In heaven's and man's despite,

His people, with continual stroke,  
For ever joyed to smite ;  
Who ruled them, in his anger stern,  
With terror's iron rod,  
Now lies all prostrate 'neath the arm  
Of an avenging God !

And the whole Earth rejoiceth,  
At length, to be at rest ;  
The halcyon Peace, long scared away,  
Once more becomes her guest ;  
And, in the fulness of their hearts,  
In their deliverance strong,  
The gladness of all living things  
Is breaking forth in song !

Ay, even to her inmost heart,  
Creation owns the spell ;  
The fir-trees bow rejoicingly  
That none come up to fell ;  
The cedars dark of Lebanon  
At length have found a voice,  
And seem, through all their spreading boughs,  
To murmur forth "rejoice!"

Hell from beneath is moved for thee,  
To bid thee welcome there,  
And stirreth up the dead once more  
To gaze on thy despair ;  
The chief ones of the nation's choice,  
The mighty kings of earth,  
Are lifted up from their dread thrones  
To mock thee with their mirth !

And they shall speak to thee and say,  
With cold, derisive smile,  
The pointed finger of their scorn,  
Slow-moving all the while ;  
Art thou, stupendous in thy guilt,  
Thus weak and powerless grown ?  
Where is the sceptre of thy rule,  
And where thy vaunted throne ?

Thy pomp is brought down to the grave ;  
Voices that hymned thy fame,  
Have died into an echo,  
Or but breathe another's name ;—  
Thy festal banquets all are o'er,  
And o'er thy prostrate form,  
Insatiate Death hath spread his board,  
The reveller the worm !

Son of the Morning, Lucifer !  
How hast thou ceased from heaven ;  
A star so bright, at dawn of day,  
To be extinct at even !  
Thou, who didst strive, with impious pride,  
God's throne above to climb,  
From that empyrean height to fall,  
With ruin more sublime !

Oh, who can look upon thee now,  
Nor ask is this the man  
Who made the mightiest kingdoms quake,  
The trembling earth grow wan ;  
Who o'er her splendid cities passed  
Like a consuming flame,

And of their primal grandeur left  
No record but a name !

The kings of all the nations  
In their tombs of glory lie,  
Whilst thou art from thy grave cast out,  
The scorn of every eye ;  
Despised, abandoned of the world,  
The passer-by to greet,  
Like the corse of one untimely slain,  
And trodden under feet !

Thou shalt not share their burial-place,  
Nor join in their renown,  
Because thou hast destroyed the land,  
And struck thy people down :  
For this iniquity a curse  
Shall to thy children cling,  
Far sharper than the serpent's tooth,  
Or Death's envenomed sting !

The seed of evil-doers  
Shall ne'er possess the land ;  
Nor fill the world with cities,  
But shall drop away like sand ;  
Never again to reunite,  
In strength to be as one ;  
The name, the remnant, and the race,  
Forgot like Babylon !

## ON BURNING A PACKET OF LETTERS.

“ And slight withhold may be the things that bring  
Back on the heart the weight which it would fling  
Aside for ever.”

BYRON.

RELICS of love, and life’s enchanted spring,  
Of hopes, born rainbow-like of smiles and tears,  
With trembling hand do I unloose the string  
Twined ’round the records of my youthful years.

Yet why preserve memorials of a dream  
Too bitter-sweet to breathe of aught but pain ;  
Why court fond memory for a fitful gleam  
Of faded bliss, that cannot bloom again !

The thoughts and feelings these sad relics bring  
Back on my heart, I would not now recall :  
Since holier ties around its pulses cling,  
Shall spells less hallowed hold them still in thrall ?

Can withered hopes that never came to flower,  
Match with affections long and dearly tried ;  
Love, that has lived through many a stormy hour,  
Through good and ill, and time and change defied !

Perish each record that might wake a thought  
That would be treason to a faith like this !  
Why should the spectres of past joys be brought  
To fling their shadows o’er my present bliss !

Yet, ere we part for ever, let me pay  
A last, fond tribute to the sainted dead ;  
Mourn o'er these wrecks of passion's earlier day,  
With tears as wild as once I used to shed.

What gentle words are flashing on my eye !  
What tender truths in every line I trace !  
Confessions, penned with many a deep-drawn sigh ;  
Hopes, like the Dove, with but *one* resting-place.

How many a feeling, long, too long, represt,  
Like autumn flowers, here opened out at last ;  
How many a vision of the lonely breast,  
Its cherished radiance on these leaves hath east !

And ye, pale violets, whose sweet breath hath driven  
Back on my soul the dreams I fain would quell ;  
To whose faint perfume such wild power is given,  
To call up visions only loved too well ;—

Ye too must perish :—wherefore now divide  
Tributes of love—first offerings of the heart !  
Gifts, that so long have slumbered side by side ;  
Tokens of feeling, never meant to part !

A long farewell ;—sweet flowers, sad scrolls, adieu !  
Yes, ye shall be companions to the last :  
So perish all that would revive anew  
The fruitless memories of the faded past !

'Tis done ; the flames are curling swiftly 'round  
Each fairer vestige of my youthful years ;  
Page after page that searching blaze hath found,  
Even while I strive to trace them through my tears :

The Hindoo widow, in affection strong,  
 Dies by her lord, and keeps her faith unbroken ;  
 Thus perish all that to those wrecks belong,  
 The living memory—with the lifeless token !

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### A PARAPHRASE.

YES, methinks that I could without weeping resign  
 Both thy beautiful eyes, though so fondly they languish ;  
 And thy lips, though they often have murmured to mine  
 Affection's soft tones, I could lose, without anguish !

To be brief; thou hast held so ungentle a sway  
 O'er the heart that was given by love to thy keeping,  
 That at length from thy chains it is stealing away,  
 And methinks I *may* learn to lose all without weeping !

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### THE ÆOLIAN HARP.

“ Methinks it should have been impossible  
 Not to love all things in a world like this,  
 Where even the breezes and the common air  
 Contain the power and spirit of harmony.”

COLERIDGE.

HARP of the winds ! What music may compare  
 With thy mild gush of melody ; or where  
 'Mid this world's discords, may we hope to meet,  
 Tones such as thine—so soothing and so sweet !

Harp of the winds! When summer's zephyr wings  
Its airy flight across thy tremulous strings,  
As if enamoured of its breath, they move  
With soft, low murmurs;—like the voice of love  
Ere passion deepens it, or sorrow mars  
Its harmony with sighs. All worldly jars  
Confess thy soothing power, when strains like these  
From thy soft chords are borne upon the breeze !

But when a more pervading force compels  
Their sweetness into strength, and quickly swells  
Each tenderer tone to fulness,—what a strange  
And spirit-stirring sense that fitful change  
Wakes in my heart. Visions of days long past,—  
Hope, joy, pride, pain, and passion, with the blast  
Come rushing on my soul;—till I believe  
Some strong enchantment, purposed to deceive,  
Hath fixed its spell upon me; and I grieve  
I may not burst its bonds!—Anon the gale  
Softly subsides, and whisperings low prevail  
Of inarticulate melody, that seem  
Not music but its shadow;—what a dream  
Is to reality; or as the swell,—  
Those who have felt alone have power to tell,—  
Of the full heart where love was late a guest,  
Ere it recovers from its sweet unrest.  
The charm is o'er; each warring thought flits by,  
Exorcised by that simplest minstrelsy;  
Each turbulent feeling owns its sweet control,  
And peace once more returns and settles on my soul !

## RICHMOND HILL.

“Sweet scene of Childhood’s opening bloom, for sportive Youth to stray in,  
For Manhood to enjoy his strength, and Age to wear away in.”

WORDSWORTH.

LET poets rave of Arno’s stream,  
And painters of the winding Rhine ;  
I will not ask a lovelier dream,  
A sweeter scene, fair Thames, than thine ;  
As, in a summer eve’s decline,  
Thou glidest “at thine own sweet will,”  
Reflecting from thy face divine,  
The flower-wreathed brow of Richmond Hill !

And, what though some may hold thee cheap,  
Because thy charms are all their own ;  
And, cold to thee, their praises keep  
For foreign bowers, and skies alone ;—  
And some may scarcely deign to own  
The beauties all may share at will ;  
I’ll bow before thy woodland throne,  
And hymn thy praise, sweet Richmond Hill !

For what the slave of passion spurns,  
But makes thee dearer far to me ;  
Then, whilst his sickly fancy turns  
To foreign climes, I’ll worship thee !  
The more, that thou to all art free ;  
That hearts unnumbered sweetly thrill,  
When by-gone hours of blameless glee  
Come blent with thoughts of Richmond Hill.

The schoolboy seeks thy glowing crest,  
And launches thence his soaring kite,  
In all the motley colours drest  
His fancy deems of fair and bright ;  
And, like his heart, as gay and light,  
As wild, perverse, and volatile,—  
The fluttering plaything wings its flight,  
In curvets wild, o'er Richmond Hill.

Young lovers, too, frequent the shades  
That gird thy verdant diadem ;  
There linger till the day-beam fades,  
And evening's soft and dewy gem,  
The star of love, hath risen for them :  
Then 'mid the silent rapturous thrill,—  
The gush of hearts 'twere vain to stem,—  
How bright a heaven is Richmond Hill !

And when the ardent hopes of youth,  
The tone of bliss subdued acquire,  
When the wild heart has “gained in truth,  
Far more than it has lost in fire;”  
The “happy pair” will here retire,  
On memories fond to feed at will ;  
To muse on themes that ne'er can tire,—  
Their trysting days on Richmond Hill.

And even when age has strewn the brow  
With many a trace of time and care ;  
When summer's eve is bright as now,  
The world-worn man may here repair,  
And gaze on childhood's frolics fair,  
Its artless mirth and sports, until

He lives again o'er joys that were,—  
O'er days long past, on Richmond Hill.

Eden of many hearts, gay haunt  
Of youth, age, wealth, and poverty !  
How doth the prisoned bosom pant  
For one sweet day, from drudgery free,  
To dedicate to bliss and thee !  
Oh ! if 'tis brightest fame to fill  
Unnumbered hearts with ecstasy ;  
Such fame is thine, sweet Richmond Hill !

But lo ! the sun is sinking fast,  
Emblem how meet of man's decline,  
When, life's obstructing shadows past,  
His evening hour grows bright as thine ;  
And one mild gleam, Faith's glorious sign,  
Like yon bright bark that seems so still,  
Glides on the soul in light divine,  
And leads it far from Richmond Hill !

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### CONSOLATION.

“ It is but perishable stuff that moulders in the grave.”

SOUTHEY.

LOOK up, look up, and weep not so, thy darling is not dead,  
His sinless soul is cleaving now yon sky's empurpled bed ;  
His spirit drinks new life and light 'mid bowers of endless  
bloom ;  
It is but perishable stuff that moulders in the tomb.

Then hush, oh ! hush the swelling sigh, and dry the idle tear !  
Think of the home thy babe hath won, and joy that he is  
there !

When summer evening's golden hues are burning in the sky,  
And odorous gales from balmy bowers are breathing softly  
by ;

When earth is bright with sunset's beams, and flowers are  
blushing near,

And grief, all chastened and subdued, is gathering to a tear ;  
How sweet 'twill be at such an hour, and 'mid a scene so fair,  
To lift thy glistening eyes to heaven, and feel that he is  
there !

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### THE LAMENT OF BOABDIL EL CHICO ;

ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE ALHAMBRA, AFTER THE CONQUEST OF  
GRANADA BY FERDINAND AND ISABELLA.

“ It was a night of doleful lamentings within the walls of the Alhambra ; for the household of Boabdil were preparing to take a last farewell of that delightful abode. Before the dawn of day, a mournful cavalcade moved obscurely out of a postern gate of the palace, and departed through one of the most retired quarters of the city. It was composed of the family of the unfortunate Boabdil, who left thus privately that they might not be exposed to the eyes of scoffers or the exultation of the enemy. The mother of Boabdil, the Sultana Ayxa La Horra, rode on in silence, with dejected yet dignified demeanour ; but his wife, Zorayma, indulged in loud lamentations as she gave a last look at the Alhambra. They were attended by a small band of veteran Moors, who were loyally attached to the fallen monarch, and who would have sold their lives dearly in defence of his family. The sun had scarcely begun to shed his beams upon the snowy mountains which rise above Granada, when the Christian camp was in motion with a view to take possession of the city.

The signal of advance was a large silver cross, elevated on the Torre de la Vela, or great watch-tower, and sparkling in the sunbeams. The splendid cavalcade, composed of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, and their chief nobles and attendants, was met by the unhappy Boabdil on the banks of the Xenil, at a short distance from Granada. As he approached the King he would have dismounted in token of homage had not Ferdinand prevented him. He then offered to kiss the King's hand, but this sign of vassalage was declined. Queen Isabella refused also to receive this ceremonial of homage; and to console him under his adversity delivered to him his son, who had remained as a hostage ever since Boabdil's liberation from captivity. The Moorish monarch pressed his child to his bosom with tender emotion, and they seemed mutually endeared by their misfortunes. Having placed the keys of the city in the hands of the King, Boabdil continued his course towards the Alpuxarras, that he might avoid being a spectator of the entrance of the Christians into his capital. Having rejoined his family, they ascended an eminence, commanding the last view of Granada, where they paused to take a farewell gaze at their beloved city. The sunshine, so bright in that transparent climate, lighted up each tower and minaret, and rested gloriously on the crowning battlements of the Alhambra; whilst the Vega spread its enamelled bosom below, glistening with the silver windings of the Xenil. The Moorish cavaliers gazed with silent agony upon that delicious scene; but whilst they yet looked, a light cloud of smoke burst forth from the citadel; and presently a peal of artillery, faintly heard, announced that the city was taken possession of. The heart of Boabdil, softened by misfortunes and overcharged by grief, could no longer contain itself. 'Allah Akbar! God is great,' he would have said; but the words of resignation died upon his lips, and he burst into a flood of tears. His mother, the intrepid Sultana Aixa La Horra, was indignant at this weakness. 'You do well,' said she, 'to weep like a woman for what you failed to defend like a man.' An ineffectual attempt was made to console him, but his tears continued to flow, and he turned from the scene, exclaiming, 'When did misfortunes ever equal mine!' From this circumstance the hill took the name of '*El ultimo suspiro del Moro*',—the last sigh of the Moor. The unhappy Boabdil retired to the valley of Porchena, where a small but fertile territory had been allotted to him. The jealousy of Ferdinand, however, who felt hardly secure in his newly-conquered territories whilst there was one within their bounds who might revive pretensions to the throne, did not long permit him to remain in this retirement. A collusive arrangement between the Vizier of Boabdil and the King, by which the former was to receive 80,000 golden ducats for his territory, concluded without Boabdil's privity, drove him forth once more. Gathering together, therefore, the wreck of his property, he set out for a neighbouring port, where a vessel was waiting to convey him to Africa. He was

there hospitably received by his relative, Muley Ahmed, king of Fez, and resided for many years on his territory. Thirty-four years after the conquest of Granada, he fell in an attempt to assist the King of Fez to quell a rebellion in his dominions; 'an instance,' says the chronicler, 'of the scornful caprice of Fortune, dying in defence of the kingdom of another, after wanting spirit to die in defence of his own.' The fate of Boabdil is said to have been revealed to him in a dream, to which it is presumed he alluded when, on deciding on the capitulation of Granada, he exclaimed, 'Too surely was it written in the Book of Fate that I should be unfortunate, and that my kingdom should expire under my rule.' The fall of his empire had, moreover, been prophesied by a dervise, who, penetrating to the foot of his throne some months before his downfall, exclaimed, 'Woe! woe! woe to Granada! its hour of desolation approaches! my spirit tells me that the end of our empire is at hand.' Nearly all the events of his life appear to have established his title to the *soubriquet*, El Zogoybi, the unfortunate, or unlucky. The last words that burst spontaneously from the lips of the faithful few who witnessed his embarkation for Africa, were, 'Farewell, Boabdil! Allah preserve thee, El Zogoybi!'—IRVING'S "Chronicles of Granada."

ADIEU, proud palace of my sires !  
Home of my luckless youth, adieu !  
Still lingers on thy glittering spires  
The light their earlier grandeur knew ;—  
The beams of evening gild them yet ;  
Boabdil's brightest sun has set !

A deathlike silence fills thy halls ;  
Hushed is the voice of revelry ;—  
And though on thy emblazoned walls  
Some stirring records still I see, —  
Their splendour serves but to declare  
How bootless those brief triumphs were.

Still winds the silver-bright Xenil  
Granada's gorgeous bowers among, —  
And wander "at their own sweet will"  
The Darro's shining waves along ;—

Smiling in light as once they smiled  
Ere blood their crystal depths defiled.

The Court of Lions still is there,  
But Musa's step is there no more ;  
Its fount still gushes on ; but where,  
Where are the lion hearts of yore ?  
Broken or scattered, like the spray  
Borne from its marble mouths away.

And where are now the youthful train  
Here schooled in Honour's knightly deeds !  
Who met on yon enamelled plain  
To try the festive tilt of reeds ?—  
Swept from the flowery paths of life,  
In wilder war—in sterner strife !

Why did I brave the dream of blood  
That prophesied my hapless fate,  
Without the courage to be good,  
Without ambition to be great ;—  
And wherefore like a woman weep  
O'er what I wanted strength to keep !

Woe, woe to thee, Granada proud,  
Thy star hath sunk to rise no more ;  
And shouts of triumph long and loud  
Proclaim thy day of glory o'er ;  
Upon La Vela's sun-touched brow  
The sign of conquest glitters now !

It is the Cross that Christians call  
The emblem mild of faith and love ;—

Of peace, and pure goodwill to all ;—  
Of truth, all human truth above ;—  
Yet hath it ever proved to me  
The sign of hate and treachery !

Before our wasted Vegas knew  
That symbol red of strife and toil,  
Ere nursed by traitor arts it grew  
The scourge of our devoted soil ;  
To me its saving grace did seem  
A glorious creed—a godlike dream !

But I have probed the gilded cheat  
Of all who 'neath that banner fight,  
The crafty friendship, cold deceit,  
With which they trusting hearts requite :  
We fall ;—'tis theirs to strike the blow,  
By one dark rebel's sin laid low !

*My* crime it was invoked the wrath  
That on my dooméd race descends ;  
A curse must ever dog my path ;  
With me the Moor's broad empire ends ;  
I would my heart's last life-drop drain  
To win that birthright back again.

I go to hide my humbled head  
In some sequestered haunt of shame ;  
Some far and foreign land to tread,  
That hath not heard Boabdil's name :  
Perchance, should Fate such peace deny,  
A dark, inglorious death to die !

Yet, even to earn a fate like this,  
A weightier penance still remains ;  
The blood-stained, treacherous hand to kiss  
That fixed my fate and forged my chains ;—  
And, howsoe'er my soul rebel,  
My conqueror's bloated pomp to swell !

To bend before his saddle-bow  
His kingly clemency to crave ;  
The scoff, the scorn, the jest, the show  
Of every idle, gaping slave ;—  
And thank his mercy for a son,  
Whose throne, realm, birthright—all are gone !

For what is left ? A blunted spear ;  
A broken sword and dinted shield ;  
A crown he is not doomed to wear ;  
A sceptre he may never wield ;  
A blighted and dishonoured name ;  
A monarch's pride—a vassal's shame !

Oh, not for this his youth was trained  
To sports that best beseem a king ;  
The foremost still where Beauty reigned  
To tilt the reed, or ride the ring ;—  
And when the mimic strife was o'er,  
To nerve his soul for nobler lore !

But what avail the lessons now  
His soaring soul so quickly caught ;  
That swelling heart and haughty brow  
Must soon a harder task be taught ;—

To bleed in silence, and to hide  
Grief's canker-worm 'neath looks of pride.

A smile hath lit Zorayma's eye,  
She sees her long-lost son draw near,  
And, tearless, half forgets to sigh  
O'er the dark chance that brings him here ;—  
She knows, she feels, that come what will,  
She is a queen—a mother still !

Whilst I who have so often burned  
To clasp my gallant boy again ;  
Each gentler thought to anguish turned,  
Now meet his dauntless glance with pain :  
And filled with dreams of other years,  
Can only welcome him with tears !

Away, away, wild drops, away !  
I must a sterner aspect wear ;  
I would not to yon slaves betray  
The secret of my soul's despair ;—  
No ; let their shouts of triumph ring,  
I'll meet them like Granada's King !

Throw wide the gates, the hundred gates,  
That ne'er received a foe before ;  
For, lo ! the conqueror's pageant waits  
To tread the halls we tread no more ;  
Lead on ; at length I've burst the spell ;  
And now, majestic pile, farewell !

## THE TWIN SISTERS.

“They grew together  
 Like to a double cherry, seeming parted  
 But yet an union in partition ;  
 Two lovely berries moulded on one stem ;  
 So, with two seeming bodies, but one heart.”

SHAKSPEARE.

I SAW them when their bud of life  
 Was slowly opening into flower,  
 Before a cloud of care or strife  
 Had burst above their natal bower ;—  
 Ere this world’s blight had marred a grace  
 That mantled o’er each smiling face.

What were they then ? Two twinkling stars,  
 The youngest of an April sky ;—  
 Far, far from earth, and earthborn jars,  
 Together shining peacefully ;—  
 Now borrowing, now dispensing light ;  
 Radiant as Hope, and calm as bright.

What were they then ? Two limpid streams  
 Through life’s green vale in beauty gliding ;  
 Now, blent like half-forgotten dreams ;  
 Now, ’neath the gloom of willows hiding ;  
 Now, dancing o’er the turf away,  
 In playful waves and glittering spray.

I see them as I saw them then,  
 With careless brows, and laughing eyes ;

They flash upon my soul again  
With all their infant witcheries ;  
Two gladsome spirits sent on earth  
As envoys from the Muse of Mirth.

Such fancy's dreams ; but never more  
May fancy with such dreams be fed :  
The buds have withered to the core  
Before their leaves had time to spread !  
The stars have fallen from on high ;  
The streams are now for ever dry !

When spring was brightening all the skies,  
'Mid blooming flowers and sunny weather,  
Death came to them in gentlest guise,  
And smote them in his love together ;—  
In concert thus they lived and died,  
And now lie slumbering side by side !

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## A SKETCH FROM PRIVATE LIFE.

I SAW her in her morn of hope, in life's delicious Spring,  
A radiant creature of the earth, just bursting on the wing ;  
Elate and joyous as the lark when first it soars on high,  
Without a shadow in its path,—a cloud upon its sky !

I see her yet—so fancy deems,—her soft, unbraided hair  
Gleaming, like sunlight upon snow, above her forehead fair ;

Her large dark eyes, of changing light, the winning smile that  
    played,  
In dimpling sweetness, round a mouth Expression's self had  
    made !

And light alike of heart and step, she bounded on her way,  
Nor dreamed the flowers that round her bloomed would ever  
    know decay ;—

She had no winter in her note, but evermore would sing,—  
What darker season had she known,—of Spring, of only  
    Spring !

Alas, alas ! that hopes like hers, so gentle and so bright,  
The growth of many a happy year, one wayward hour should  
    blight ;

Bow down her fair but fragile form, her brilliant brow o'ercast,  
And make her beauty, like her bliss, a shadow of the past !

Years came and went, we met again,—but what a change was  
    there !

The glossy calmness of the eye, that whispered of despair ;  
The fitful flushing of the cheek, the lips compressed and thin,  
The clench of the attenuate hands,—proclaimed the strife  
    within !

Yet, for each ravaged charm of earth, some pitying power had  
    given

Beauty, of more than mortal birth, a spell that breathed of  
    heaven ;—

And as she bent, resigned and meek, beneath the chastening  
    blow,

With all a martyr's fervid faith her features seemed to glow !

No wild reproach, no bitter word, in that sad hour was spoken,  
 For hopes deceived, for love betrayed, and plighted pledges  
 broken ;—

Like HIM who for his murderers prayed, she wept, but did  
 not chide ;

And her last orisons were said for him for whom she died !

Thus, thus, too oft, the traitor Man repays fond Woman's  
 truth ;

Thus blighting, in his wild caprice, the blossoms of her youth :  
 And sad it is in griefs like these o'er visions loved and lost,  
 That the truest and the tenderest heart must always suffer  
 most !

---

### LINES WRITTEN BENEATH A PORTRAIT.

“Time cannot thin thy flowing hair,  
 Nor take one ray of light from thee ;  
 For in my fancy thou dost share  
 The gift of immortality !”

WORDSWORTH.

THOU wert fair when first we met,  
 As a youthful poet's dream ;  
 Thou art lovely still, and yet,  
 Where, O where's the vernal gleam  
 That around thy footsteps hung,  
 When our hearts and hopes were young !

Thou wert joyous as the bird,  
 When its first wild flight it tries ;

And thy softliest whispered word  
Breathed the mirth of summer skies ;  
Thou art silent now when glad ;  
Serious ever—sometimes sad.

Thou didst love in other years,  
Songs of light and joyous flow,  
But the strains that stir thy tears,  
Are thy cherished pastime now ;  
Thou hast learned to gather gladness  
From the very depths of sadness.

Yes, thy blue eye's changing light,  
Shed a keener radiance then ;  
And thy smile so dazzling bright,  
Ne'er can be so bright again ;—  
Let each faithless grace depart,  
Spring can never leave thy heart !

It is warm as ever still,  
Fond and faithful to the core ;  
Withering sorrow cannot chill,  
Would she ne'er might wring it more !  
Years may dim the rose of youth,  
So they spare the bosom's truth.

Time and his twin-sister Care,  
Have but lightly touched thy brow ;  
And the lines imprinted there,  
Never lovelier seemed than now ;  
For they breathe the spell refined  
Of a sorrow-chastened mind.

Wherefore then should I repine  
That thou art not as of old ;  
Since maturer gifts are thine,  
Precious treasures, wealth untold ;  
Charms thy youth could never know,  
Graces, time alone bestow !

If we are not what we were,  
We have not endured in vain ;  
Since the present hour is fair,  
Why evoke the past again !  
Am not I, and art not thou,  
Calmer, wiser, happier now !

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## ÆTNA.

## A SKETCH.

“I looked, and saw the face of things quite changed.”  
“*Paradise Lost.*”

IT was a lovely night ;—the crescent moon  
(A bark of beauty on its dark blue sea),  
Winning its way amid the billowy clouds,  
Unoared, unpiloted, moved on. The sky  
Was studded thick with stars, which glittering streamed  
An intermittent splendour through the heavens.  
I turned my glance to earth ;—the mountain winds  
Were sleeping in their caves,—and the wild sea,  
With its innumerable billows, melted down  
To one unmoving mass, lay stretched beneath

In deep and tranced slumber ; giving back  
The host above with all its dazzling sheen,  
To Fancy's ken, as though the luminous sky  
Had rained down stars upon its breast. Suddenly,  
The scene grew dim : those living lights rushed out,  
And the fair moon, with all her gorgeous train,  
Had vanished like the frost-work of a dream.

Darkness arose ; and volumed clouds swept o'er  
Earth and the ocean. Through the gloom, at times,  
Sicilian  $\mathbb{A}$ etna's blood-red flame was seen  
Fitfully flickering. The stillness now  
Yielded to murmurs hurtling on the air  
From out her deep-voiced crater ; and the winds  
Burst through their bonds of adamant, and lashed  
The weltering ocean, that so lately lay  
Calm as the slumbers of a cradled child,  
To a demoniac's madness. The broad wave  
Swelled into boiling surges, which appeared,  
Whene'er the mountain's lurid light revealed  
Their progress to the eye, presumptuously  
To dash against the ebon roof of heaven.

Then came a sound—a fearful, deafening sound—  
Sudden and loud, as if an earthquake rent  
The globe to its foundations ! With a rush,  
Startling deep Midnight on her throne, rose up,  
From the red mouth of  $\mathbb{A}$ etna's burning mount,  
A giant tree of fire, whence sprouted out  
Thousands of boundless branches, that put forth  
Their fiery foliage in the sky, and showered  
Their fruit, the red-hot levin, to the earth,  
In terrible profusion. Some fell back

Into the hell from which they sprang ; and some,  
Gaining an impulse from the winds that raged  
Unceasingly around, sped o'er the main,  
And, hissing, dived to an eternal home  
Beneath its yawning billows. The black smoke,  
Blotting the snows that shroud pale Cuma's height,  
Rolled down the mountain's sides, girding its base  
With artificial darkness ; for the sea,  
Catania's palaces and towers, and even  
The far-off shores of Syracuse, revealed  
In the deep glare that deluged heaven and earth,  
Flashed forth in fearful light upon the eye.  
And there was seen a lake of liquid fire  
Streaming and streaming slowly on its course ;  
And widening as it flowed, like the dread jaws  
Of some huge monster ere its prey be fanged.  
At its approach the loftiest pines bent down,  
And strewed its surface with their trunks ;—the earth  
Shook at its coming ;—towns and villages,  
Deserted of their denizens, were 'whelmed  
Amid that flood, and lent it ampler force ;  
The noble's palace, and the peasant's cot,  
Alike but served to swell its fiery tide :  
Shrieks of wild anguish rushed upon the gale,  
And universal Nature seemed to wrestle  
With the gaunt forms of Darkness and Despair.

TO A CHILD, AFTER AN INTERVAL  
OF ABSENCE.

I miss thee from my side,  
With thy merry eyes and blue ;  
From thy crib at morning-tide,  
Oft its curtains peeping through ;  
In the kisses, not a few,  
Thou wert wont to give me then ;  
In thy sleepy sad adieu,  
When 'twas time for bed again !

I miss thee from my side,  
With thy question oft repeated ;  
On thy rocking-horse astride,  
Or beneath my table seated :  
Or, when tired and overheated  
With a summer-day's delight,  
Many a childish aim defeated,  
Sleep hath overpowered thee quite !

I miss thee from my side,  
When brisk Punch is at the door ;  
Vainly pummels he his bride,  
Judy's wrongs can charm no more !  
He may beat her till she's sore,  
She may die, and he may flee ;  
Though I loved their squalls of yore,  
What's the pageant now to me !

I miss thee from my side,  
When the light of day grows pale ;  
When with eyelids opened wide,  
Thou wouldest list the oft-told tale,  
And the murdered babes bewail ;  
Yet so greedy of thy pain,  
That, when all my lore would fail,  
I must needs begin again !

I miss thee from my side,  
Blithe cricket of my hearth !  
Oft in secret have I sighed  
For thy chirping voice of mirth :  
When the low-born cares of earth  
Chill my heart, and dim my eye,  
Grief is stifled in its birth,  
If my little prattler's nigh !

I miss thee from my side,  
With thy bright, ingenuous smile ;  
With thy glance of infant pride,  
And the face no tears defile :—  
Stay, and other hearts beguile,  
Hearts that prize thee fondly too ;  
I must spare thy pranks awhile ;  
Cricket of my hearth, adieu !

## A REMONSTRANCE.

TO A FRIEND WHO COMPLAINED TO THE AUTHOR THAT HE WAS  
"ALL ALONE!"

OH! say thou art not all alone  
Upon this wide, cold-hearted earth ;—  
Sigh not o'er joys for ever flown,—  
The vacant chair, the silent hearth :  
Why should the world's unholy mirth  
Upon thy quiet dreams intrude,  
To scare those shapes of heavenly birth,  
That people oft thy solitude !

Though many a fervent hope of youth  
Hath passed, and scarcely left a trace ;  
Though earth-born love, its tears and truth,  
No longer in thy heart have place ;  
Nor time, nor grief can e'er efface  
The brighter hopes that now are thine ;  
The fadeless love, all-pitying grace,  
That makes thy darkest hours divine !

Not all alone ; for thou canst hold  
Communion sweet with saint and sage ;  
And gather gems, of price untold,  
From many a consecrated page :  
Youth's dreams, the golden lights of age,  
The poet's lore,—are still thine own ;  
Then, while such themes thy thoughts engage,  
Oh! how canst thou be all alone !

Not all alone ; the lark's rich note,  
As mounting up to heaven, she sings ;  
The thousand silvery sounds that float  
Above, below, on morning's wings ;  
The softer murmurs twilight brings,—  
The cricket's chirp, cicada's glee ;  
All earth, that lyre of myriad strings,  
Is jubilant with life for thee !

Not all alone ; the whispering trees,  
The rippling brook, the starry sky,  
Have each peculiar harmonies  
To soothe, subdue, and sanctify :  
The low, sweet breath of evening's sigh,  
For thee hath oft a friendly tone,  
To lift thy grateful thoughts on high,  
And say—thou art not all alone !

Not all alone ; a watchful Eye,  
That notes the wandering sparrow's fall,  
A saving Hand is ever nigh,  
A gracious Power attends thy call ;—  
When sadness holds thy heart in thrall,  
Oft is His tenderest mercy shown ;  
Seek then the balm vouchsafed to all,  
And thou canst never be alone !

## A SCENE FROM FAUST.

“She half enclosed him with her arms,  
She pressed him with a meek embrace,  
And bending back her head, looked up,  
And gazed upon his face.”

COLERIDGE.

SHE had been waiting for him, till her heart  
Was stirred, almost to bursting, with the strife  
Of hope and fear, the fondness and mistrust,  
That only lovers know: and she had vowed  
To chide her truant for his long delay;  
To frown, look cold and stately as a queen;  
Discourse of broken vows, dissevered ties;  
And ask if men were faithless all, like him!  
But, as she sat within her garden bower,  
She heard the music of his well-known step;  
And all her firm resolves, resentments, doubts,  
The pride of slighted beauty, were dispelled,  
As if those sounds had power to exorcise  
All thoughts that did not minister to love!  
And her eye caught the dancing of his plume,  
'Mid the green branches, as he strode along;  
Her quick ear drank his melody of voice,  
As its sweet accents syllabled her name,  
Till every echo round repeated it!

What should she do? Go hide her from his search;  
Teach the gay laggard she too could be slow;  
And bid him feel, in part, what she had felt,

To make their after-meeting more divine !  
The fancy pleased her ; and she fled before him,  
Swift as a startled fawn, as graceful too ;  
Gained their accustomed trysting-place unseen,  
And hid herself in sport behind the door ;  
Meaning to dart to his unconscious arms,  
Just as his brow was gathering to a frown,  
That she could break her promises like him.  
She would have stilled the beating of her heart,  
That she might catch the first, faint distant sounds  
Of his approaching footsteps ; but suspense  
Lent it a wilder impulse, and its throbs  
Grew momently more loud. She gasped for breath,  
As the thick boughs that hid her summer haunt  
Rustled, the latch was lifted, and the words,  
“ Margaret, dear Margaret !” in the faltering tones  
Of one who seeks but scarce expects an answer,  
Fell on her charméd ear.

She rushed towards him,  
With all her sex’s fervency and truth,  
Its willing faith, devotedness of soul,—  
Forgetful only of its proud reserve,—  
And, twining round his neck her snowy arm,  
Clung to his lips, as though the world and life  
Had nothing for her half so sweet beside !  
And, in the pauses of that wild embrace,  
She breathed, in few and scarce articulate words,  
The love shut up in her deep heart till then.  
She had no thought that virtue might not own,  
No guile to mask, no purpose to conceal ;  
So she poured forth the secrets of her soul  
With all the frankness of a woman’s love,  
Who judges others by her own pure self.

And for the world,—what were its frowns to her,  
Who held the all of wealth she wished her own,  
In the small circle of her straining clasp.  
Alas, alas, that woman's gentler feelings  
Should ever be employed to work her woe !  
That those deep impulses which, were they left  
To take their natural course, must lead to bliss,  
Should sometimes prove the ministers of ill,  
And, swelling to a wild and stormy sea,  
O'erwhelm the virtues they were meant to nourish.  
They stood in deep entrancement, heart to heart,  
With not a breath to break the hush around them,  
Save the wild throbings of each bounding breast,  
Half-smothered sighs, and soft, low-murmured words,  
That told an endless tale of love, and love !

It was a rich, bright, tranquil summer's eve ;  
The sun was resting on the horizon's verge ;  
The distant mountains wearing crowns of gold,  
Like vassal kings arose to guard his throne ;  
And every object round appeared to grow  
Instinct with softer beauty. On the breeze,  
Through the half-open lattice, came the breath  
The honeyed breath, of many a fragrant flower,  
Closing its sweet eyes on day's farewell beam.  
All things conspired to make those moments yield  
A full repayment for the grief of years ;—  
And Faust had half forgot the doom that hung,  
Like the huge avalanche a breath brings down,  
O'er his devoted head ; until a laugh,  
A fiend-like laugh, a loud, harsh, bitter taunt,  
As if in mockery of a bliss too pure  
For evil spirits to behold unpained,

Recalled him to a sense of what he was,  
And what he soon must be !

And devilish eyes  
Were leering on them, shedding baleful light  
On that sweet scene of more than mortal passion !  
Another kiss—another, and another ;—  
When lo ! the fiend grew clamorous that his dupe  
Should dare resist his will, and burst upon him,  
Dragging him forth from that bright paradise  
To shades where he might tutor him in guile,  
And bid him plan the ruin of a heart,  
Whose only fault was loving him too well !

Alas, alas ! that Man so oft should be  
The slave of some dark, scheming fiend like this !  
And, spirited by him to deeds of ill,  
Should pay dear Woman's fond confiding truth,—  
Blasting the beauty he was born to cherish,—  
With falsehood, treachery, despair, and death !

---

## LOVE AND SPRING.

'TWAS the genial month of flowers,  
Merry May, when first we met ;  
Youth, and Hope, and Love were ours,  
Love, and Hope are with us yet ;—  
Time, and Care defy the will,  
But our hearts are spring-like still.

Time may “thin the flowing hair ;”  
 Rob the eye of half its light ;  
 And the breath of low-born Care  
 Hope may canker, Beauty blight ;—  
 Fate may frown and friends grow chill,  
 So the *heart* be vernal still !

Centred thus ’mid Alpine snows,  
 Storms above, and glaciers ’round,  
 One green spot no winter knows ;  
 But, like fairy-haunted ground,  
 Holds within its charméd ring  
 All the freshest hues of spring !

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### THE DESERTED COTTAGE.

“ Whither thou goest I will go ; and where thou lodgest I will lodge ; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God ; where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried.”

*Book of Ruth.*

THEY leave their native land, a mournful parting,  
 Fortune to follow o’er the distant main ;  
 No loud lament is theirs, though tears are starting  
 To dim the eyes that may not look again.

For life hath had for them but changeful weather ;  
 Afar they seek serener skies to find ;  
 They go, and, blessed lot, they go together,  
 And leave no fond and breaking heart behind :

To count the lagging hours, too slowly dying,  
 The martyr's penance, but without his vow ;  
 To hear the question, with no voice replying,  
 "Where can they be, what are they doing now?"

Peace may be found upon a stormy billow,  
 And soft repose upon a rocking sea ;  
 Disquietude knows many a downy pillow ;  
 Where the heart rests, 'tis there its home will be.

Brief gleams of gladness Grief herself may borrow ;  
 Joy is not linked to one peculiar spot ;  
 Thy climax this they know who know thee, Sorrow,  
 The single heart and the divided lot !

Who sends the suffering, knows the situation,  
 Notes the heart's sigh, and listens to its prayers ;  
 "In this (the world) ye *shall* have tribulation ;"  
 Their hearts are one,—oh, let one grave be theirs !

---

### A PORTRAIT FROM REAL LIFE.

"What now to her is all the world's esteems ;  
 She is awake, and cares not for its dreams ;  
 But moves, while yet on earth, as one above  
 Its hopes and fears—its loathing and its love."

CRABBE.

'Tis said she once was beautiful ; and still,—  
 For 'tis not Time that can have wrought the ill,—  
 Soft rays of loveliness around her form  
 Beam, as the rainbow that succeeds the storm

Brightens a noble ruin. In her face,  
Though somewhat touched by sorrow, you may trace  
How fair she was in life's untroubled spring,  
Ere joy grew sere, or earthly hope took wing.  
O'er her pure forehead, pale as moonlit snow,  
Her ebon locks are parted,—and her brow  
Breaks forth like morning from the shades of night,  
Serene, though clouds hang over it: the bright  
And searching glance of her Ithuriel eye  
Might even the sternest hypocrite defy  
To meet it unappalled;—'twould almost seem  
As though, epitomized in one deep beam,  
Her full collected soul upon the heart,  
Whate'er its mask, she strove at once to dart.  
Patient in suffering, she has learned the art  
To bleed in silence and conceal the smart;  
And oft, though quick of feeling, has been deemed  
Almost as cold and loveless as she seemed,  
Because to fools she never would reveal  
Wounds they would probe without the power to heal.  
No; whatsoe'er the visions that disturb  
The fountain of her thoughts, she knows to curb  
Each outward sign of sorrow, and suppress,  
Even to a sigh, all tokens of distress.  
Yet some, perhaps with keener vision than  
The crowd, that pass her by unnoted, can,  
Through well-dissembled smiles, at times discern  
A settled anguish, that would seem to burn  
The very brain that quickens it; and when  
This mood of pain is on her, then, oh! then  
A more than wonted paleness of the cheek,  
And, it may be, a flitting hectic streak,

A tremulous motion of the lip or eye,  
Are all that anxious friendship can descry.  
Unkindness and neglect she knows to bear  
Without complaint, almost without a tear,  
Save such as hearts internally will weep,  
And they ne'er rise the burning lids to steep :  
But to those petty wrongs that half defy  
Human forbearance, she can make reply  
With a proud lip and a contemptuous eye.  
There is a speaking sadness in her air,  
A shade of languor o'er her features fair,  
Born of no common grief ; as though Despair  
Had wrestled with her spirit, been o'erthrown,  
And these the trophies of the strife alone.  
A resignation of the will, a calm  
Derived from true religion (that sweet balm  
For wounded breasts), is seated on her brow ;  
And ever to the tempest bends she now,  
Even as a drooping lily that the wind  
Sways as it lists. The sweet affections bind  
Her sympathies to earth ; her peaceful soul  
Has long aspired to that immortal goal,  
Where pain and anguish cease to be our lot,  
And worldly cares and frailties are forgot.

---

### THE REQUIEM OF YOUTH.

OH, whither does the spirit flee  
That makes existence seem  
A day-dream of reality,  
Reality a dream ?

We enter on the race of life,  
 Like prodigals we live,  
 To learn how much the world exacts  
 For all it hath to give.

The fine gold soon becometh dim,  
 We prove its base alloy ;  
 And hearts enamoured once of bliss  
 Ask peace instead of joy.

Spectres dilate on every hand,  
 That seemed but tiny elves ;  
 We learn distrust of all, when most  
 We should suspect ourselves.

But why lament the common lot  
 That all must share so soon ;  
 Since shadows lengthen with the day,  
 That scarce exist at noon.

### A MAIDEN'S SOLILOQUY.

“Silence in love bewrays more woe  
 Than words, though ne'er so witty,  
 A beggar that is dumb, you know,  
 May challenge double pity.”

SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

I'LL not believe I am not loved,  
 Although his words are few ;  
 The deepest streams have ever proved  
 As cold and silent too.

He never said my form was fair ;  
My cheek might shame the rose ;  
And yet the smile that other's share  
O'er him a shadow throws.

Wit's arrows pass him harmless by,  
A Cymon's self might move ;  
Each shaft diverted by a sigh,—  
The eloquence of love.

And when I sing the stirring songs  
That charm all other ears,  
His trembling voice his purpose wrongs,  
He cannot praise—for tears !

But should another claimant rise,  
And gentle words bespeak,  
The lightning flashes to his eyes,  
The heart-blood to his cheek !

I know I rule his bosom's chords,  
A despot on my throne ;  
When will he give his feelings words,  
And take me for his own !

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### THE MARTYRS OF ROYAL-LIEU.

.. The Abbess and Nuns of Royal-Lieu fell victims to the revolutionary madness. She and her numerous sisterhood were led to the scaffold on the same day. On their way from the prison to the guillotine, they all chaunted the 'Veni Creator.' Their arrival at the place of execution did not interrupt their

strains; one head fell, and its voice ceased to join the celestial chorus; but the song continued. The Abbess suffered last, and her single voice still raised the devout canticle. It ceased—and the silence of death ensued.”—MADAME CAMPAN.

DARK clouds are hurrying through the sky,  
'Tis autumn's fitful eve,  
And the dying breeze is murmuring by,  
With a sound that makes one grieve;—  
A stifling heat is in the air,  
Like the sultry breath of a lion's lair,  
And unseen fingers weave  
A giant veil of shadows dun,  
Before the broad, red, sinking sun.

Black, as with wrath, yon angry cloud  
Seems to pause in its mid career,  
As the trampling steps of the crushing crowd  
To one gory spot draw near:  
What mean their yells of horrid glee,  
Those tossing heads, like a stormy sea,  
Clenched hands, and brows severe?  
Whence come that savage tiger brood  
To glut their demon lust for blood?

But hark! what thrilling sounds arise  
From yon slow-moving throng;  
Floating like incense to the skies,  
In one rich tide of song!  
And see, where opening to their tread,  
Those ruthless men shrink back,—and led  
By Faith, serene yet strong,  
A meek-eyed band, with tireless breath,  
Prolong that prelude note of death!

Theirs is no hope forlorn ; they wend  
Exulting on their way ;  
Reckless how soon their course may end,  
Their life-blood ebb away ;  
They seem to share one thought, one breath,  
And marshalled thus by Faith to death,  
In beautiful array,  
Those martyr Sisters glide along,  
Breathing their parting prayers in song !

No fears have they ; the savage crowd  
May scowl on them in vain ;  
Their steps are firm, their bearing proud,  
Unfailing still their strain.  
They see the reckless scaffold nigh,  
With dauntless heart, untroubled eye,  
Their blood so soon must stain ;  
And lift their vesper hymn on high,  
Swan-like, resolved to sing and die.

Lo ! how she bends her to the block,  
The foremost of that guiltless throng,  
And sings, till 'neath the headsman's stroke,  
Are stayed at once her breath and song !  
Yet still the angelic strain peals on  
More thrilling sweet ; till, one by one,  
Is hushed each tuneful tongue ;  
And to that sainted band 'tis given  
To join seraphic choirs in heaven !

## THE ANNIVERSARY.

TWENTY chequered years have past,—  
Summer suns and wintry weather,—  
Since our lot, in concert cast,  
First we “climbed the hill together.”

And the world before us lay,  
In its brightest colours dressed,  
As we took our joyous way,  
To select our place of rest.

Fortune's smiles we could not boast ;  
Fame,—we never dreamed of Fame ;  
Friendship, e'en when needed most,  
We had only known by name ;—

Fate denying trappings rich,  
We decked our bower with humbler things,  
And, in Friendship's empty niche,  
Love installed without his wings.

There, though twenty years have fled,  
Chequered o'er by good and ill,  
He lifts aloft his beaming head,  
The same young, household idol still.

## THE YOUNGLING OF THE FLOCK.

WELCOME, thrice welcome to my heart, sweet harbinger of  
bliss,

How have I looked, till hope grew sick, for a moment bright  
as this !

Thou hast flashed upon my aching sight when Fortune's clouds  
are dark,

The sunny spirit of my dreams—the dove unto mine ark !

Oh no ! not even when life was new, and Love and Hope were  
young,

And o'er the firstling of my flock with raptured gaze I hung,  
Did I feel the glow that thrills me now, the yearnings fond  
and deep,

That stir my bosom's inmost chords, as I watch thy plaeid  
sleep !

Though loved and cherished be the flower that springs 'neath  
summer skies,

The buds that bloom 'mid wintry storms more tenderly we  
prize ;

One does but make our bliss more bright, the other meets our  
eye,

Like the radiant star, when all beside have vanished from the  
sky.

Sweet blossom of my stormy hour, star of my troubled heaven,  
To thee that passing sweet perfume, that soothing light is  
given ;

And precious art thou to my soul, but dearer far that thou,  
A messenger of peace and love, art sent to cheer me now.

What though my heart be crowded close with inmates dear  
    though few,  
Creep in, my little smiling babe, there's still a niche for you !  
And should another claimant rise, and clamour for a place,  
Who knows but room may still be found, if it wears as fair a  
    face.

I listen to thy feeble cry, till it 'wakens in my breast,  
The sleeping energies of love—sweet hopes, too long repressed ;  
For, weak as that low wail may seem to other ears than mine,  
It stirs *my* heart, like a trumpet's voice, to strive for thee and  
    thine !

It peals upon my dreaming soul sweet tidings of the birth  
Of a new and blessed link of love, to fetter me to earth,  
And, strengthening many a fond resolve, it bids me do and  
    dare  
All that a father's heart may brave, to make thy sojourn fair.

I cannot shield thee from the blight a bitter world may fling  
O'er all the promise of thy youth, the vision of thy spring ;  
For, I would not warp thy gentle heart, each kindlier impulse  
    ban,  
By teaching thee—what I have learned—how base a thing is  
    man.

I cannot save thee from the griefs to which our flesh is heir,  
But I can arm thee with a spell, life's keenest ills to bear ;  
I may not Fortune's frowns avert, but I can bid thee pray  
For wealth this world can never give, nor ever take away.

From altered Friendship's chilling glance, from Hate's en-  
venomed dart,  
Misplaced Affection's withering pang, or "true Love's" wonted  
smart,  
I cannot save my sinless child; but I can bid him seek  
Such Faith and Love from heaven above as leave earth's  
malice weak.

But wherefore doubt that He who makes the smallest bird His  
care,  
And tempers to the new-shorn lamb the blast it ill could bear,  
Will still His guiding arm extend, His gracious plan pursue,  
And if He gives thee ills to bear, will grant thee courage too.

Dear youngling of my little fold, the loveliest and the last,  
'Tis sweet to deem what thou mayst be, when long, long years  
have past;  
To think, when time hath blanched my hair, and others leave  
my side;  
Thou mayst be then my prop and stay, my blessing and my  
pride!

And when the world hath done its worst, when life's fever-fit  
is o'er,  
And the griefs that wring my weary heart can never touch it  
more,  
How sweet to think thou mayst be near to catch my latest  
sigh,  
To watch beside my dying bed, and close my glazing eye!

Oh! 'tis for offices like these, the last sweet child is given,  
The mother's joy, the father's pride, the fairest boon of  
heaven;

Their fireside plaything first, and then of their failing strength  
the rock ;  
The rainbow to their waning years,—the Youngling of their  
Flock !

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## EVENING.

“ The holy time is quiet as a Nun,  
Breathless with adoration.”

WORDSWORTH.

’Tis evening : on Abruzzo’s hill  
The summer sun is lingering still,  
As though unwilling to bereave  
    The landscape of its softest beam,—  
So fair, one can but look and grieve  
    To think that like a lovely dream,  
A few brief, fleeting moments more  
Must see its reign of beauty o’er !

’Tis evening : and a general hush  
    Prevails, save when the mountain spring  
Bursts from its rock, with fitful gush,  
    And makes melodious murmuring ;—  
Or when from Corno’s brow severe  
    The echoes of its convent bell  
Come wafted on the far-off ear,  
    With soft and diapason swell :  
But sounds so wildly sweet as they,  
Ah, who would ever wish away !

Yet there are seasons when the soul,  
Rapt in some dear delicious dream,  
Heedless what skies may o'er it roll,  
What rays of beauty round it beam,  
Shuts up its inmost depths, lest aught  
However wondrous, wild, or fair,  
Shine in, and interrupt the thought,  
The one deep thought that centres there.

Though with the passionate sense so shrined  
And canonized, the hues of grief  
Perchance be closely intertwined,  
The lonely bosom spurns relief!  
And could the breathing scene impart  
A charm to make its sadness less,  
'Twould hate the balm that healed its smart,  
And loathe the spell of loveliness  
That pierced its cloud of gloom, if so  
It stirred the stream of thought below.

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## A WOMAN'S FAREWELL.

ADAPTED TO AN AIR BY MOZART.

FARE thee well! 'Tis meet we part,  
Since other ties and hopes are thine;  
Pride that can nerve the lowliest heart,  
Will surely strengthen mine!  
Yes, I will wipe my tears away,  
Repress each struggling sigh;

Call back the thoughts thou led'st astray,  
Then lay me down and die !

Fare thee well ! I'll not upbraid  
Thy fickleness or falsehood now ;—  
Can the wild taunts of love betrayed  
Repair one broken vow ?  
But, if reproach may wake regret  
In one so false or weak,  
Think what I *was* when first we met,  
And read it—on my cheek !

Fare thee well ! On yonder tree  
One leaf is fluttering in the blast,  
Withered and sere—a type of me—  
For I shall fade as fast :  
Whilst many a refuge still hast thou,  
Thy wandering heart to save  
From the keen pangs that wring mine now ;  
I have but one—the grave !

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### THE SISTER OF CHARITY.

WRITTEN AFTER MEETING A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL MEMBER OF THE ORDER  
IN THE HOTEL DIEU OF PARIS.

ART thou some spirit from that blissful land  
Where fever never burns nor hearts are riven ?  
That soothing smile, those accents ever bland,  
Say, were they born of earth, or caught from heaven ?

Art thou some seraph-minister of grace,  
Whose glorious mission in the skies had birth ?  
An angel sure in bearing, form, and face,  
All but thy tears—and they belong to earth !

Oh, ne'er did beauty, in its loftiest pride,  
A splendour boast that may compare with thine ;  
Thus bending low yon sufferer's bed beside,  
Thy graces mortal, but thy cares divine.

A woman, filled with all a woman's fears,  
Yet strong to wrestle with earth's wildest woe ;  
A thing of softest smiles, and tenderest tears,  
That once would tremble did a breeze but blow :

Leaving, perchance, some gay and happy home,  
Music's rich tones, the rose's odorous breath,  
Throughout the crowded lazarus-house to roam,  
And pierce the haunts of Pestilence and Death.

For ever gliding with a noiseless tread,  
As loth to break the pain-worn slumberer's rest ;  
To smooth the pillow, raise the drooping head,  
And pour thy balsam on the bleeding breast.

Or, in each calmer interval of pain,  
The Christian's hope and promised boon to show ;  
And, when all human anodynes are vain,  
To nerve the bosom for its final throes.

To lead the thoughts from harrowing scenes like this,  
To that blessed shore where sin and sorrow cease  
To imp the flagging soul for realms of bliss,  
And bid the world-worn wanderer part in peace.

A creature vowed to serve both God and man,  
No narrow aims thy cherished care control ;  
Thou dost all faith, love, pity, watching can,  
To heal the body, and to save the soul.

No matter who, so he thy service need ;  
No matter what the suppliant's claim may be ;  
Thou dost not ask his country or his creed ;  
To know he suffers is enough for thee.

Not e'en from guilt dost thou thine aid withhold,  
Whose Master bled a sinful world to save ;  
Fearless in faith, in conscious virtue bold,  
'Tis thine the sick blasphemer's couch to brave ;

To note the anguish of despairing crime,  
Lash the wild scorpions of the soul within ;  
Those writhings fierce, those agonies sublime,  
That seem from conscience half their force to win :

Then stand before the dark demoniac's sight,—  
The cup of healing in thy gentle hand ;—  
A woman, strengthened with an angel's might,  
The storm of pain and passion to command.

To calm the throbings of his fevered brow ;  
Cool his parched lips, his bleeding wounds to bind ;  
And with deep faith, before the Cross to bow  
For power to still the tumult of his mind.

And it *is* given : thy softliest whispered word  
There falls like oil on a tempestuous sea ;  
Hard as his heart may seem, there's yet a chord  
Once touched, his ravings all are stilled by thee.

I see thee stand and mark that wondrous change,  
With more than mortal triumph in thine eye;  
Then blessed and blessing, turn with tears to range  
Where other claimants on thy pity lie.

By many a faint and feeble murmur led,  
A willing slave, where'er the wretched call;  
I see thee softly flit from bed to bed,  
Each wish forestalling, bearing balm to all.

Performing humblest offices of love  
For such as know no human love beside,  
Still on thy healing way in mercy move,  
Daughter of Pity, thus for ever glide!

All peace to thee and thy devoted band,  
Vowed to earth's gloomy "family of pain;"  
Whose worth could e'en the unwilling awe command  
Of blood-stained men who owned no other chain.

Long may ye live the cherished badge to wear,  
Whose snow-white folds might dignify a queen;  
To fainting souls your cup of life to bear,  
And be the angels ye have ever been.

## STANZAS.

ADDRESSED TO MISS M. J. JEWSBURY, LATE MRS. FLETCHER, ON HER  
“FAREWELL TO THE MUSE.”

GENTLE Minstrel, say not so,  
    Bid not thus the Muse farewell ;  
Since to her 'tis thine to owe  
    Many a soft and soothing spell ;  
Fraught with power to bring a train  
    Of unbidden joys around thee :  
If she “lightens hours of pain,”  
    And when Fate's barbed arrows wound thee,  
Pours upon thy bleeding heart  
    Balsam sweet to heal the smart ;  
If thou'st loved her “long and well,”  
    Wherfore bid her now farewell ?

Fame's proud steep is hard to climb ;  
    Never poet gained its brow,  
And its laurel wreath sublime,  
    But with toilsome steps and slow ;  
For the Muse is coy to yield  
    To the first light vows we make her ;  
Who would see her spells unsealed,  
    To their inmost hearts must take her ;  
Cherish her in weal or woe,  
    And all other loves forego ;  
Nor, when fancies wild impel,  
    Bid her thus, like thee, farewell !

Why pronounce her promise vain,  
And her name, ungrateful, wrong ;  
Why declare in such a strain,  
In so wildly sweet a song,  
That she ne'er to thee hath given  
Gleams of her ethereal fire,—  
Foretaste of her native heaven,  
Now to soften, now inspire.  
Where, if not on hearts like thine,  
May she pour her rays divine !  
To whom may she her mysteries tell,  
If thou must bid her thus farewell !

Then take thy Lute, and it shall be,—  
Betide what may of dark or bright,—  
Even as Aladdin's lamp to thee,  
The depths of thine own heart to light :  
To point where gems unnumbered shine,  
Wealth thou mayst scarcely deem of now,  
And bid thee thence a circlet twine,  
To grace thy young, aspiring brow ;  
A wreath of more than mortal birth,  
To keep thy memory green on earth,  
When thou hast bidden Song's sweet spell,  
Muse, Lute, and Life, indeed farewell !

## GUARDIAN ANGELS.

“Thousands of ministering angels walk the earth  
Unseen, both when we wake and when we sleep.”

MILTON.

CHILDREN, who rosy rest  
Seek on a mother’s breast,  
Know that above you are other arms spread ;  
Love, a love stronger,  
Protecting you longer,  
Watching your footsteps, and guarding your bed.

Sorrow must dim your eyes,  
Cares will with years arise,  
Ambushed around you lie many a snare ;  
Angels, defend your charge ;  
Let them not roam at large ;  
Follow for ever to bid them beware !

Young heirs of sorrow,  
Whose hope is to-morrow,  
O’er you a banner of love be unfurled ;  
Make you a special care,  
Prompting the secret prayer  
“Not to release, but to keep from the world.”

Body-guard holy,  
To man bequeathed solely,  
Vainly to see you our vision we strain ;  
Asking of form and face,  
Shadows we seek to trace,  
Stretching our arms to enfold you, in vain.

Follow us in the strife,  
Guard 'mid the throng of life,  
With each temptation fresh succour to bring;  
Closer and closer press,  
Innocence needs ye less;  
When was the streamlet as pure as the spring?

Not with the set of sun  
Labours of love are done;  
Angels! a night-watch to you hath been given;  
Slumber give not your eyes,  
Till the glad morn arise,  
And your whole flock is safe folded in heaven!

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### YOU ASK ME FOR A PLEDGE, LOVE.

You ask me for a pledge, love, but gaze upon my cheek,  
And let its hue, when thou art near, my heart's devotion  
speak;

Look on my dim and tearful eye, my pale and rigid brow,  
List to my deep, unbidden sigh,—what need of pledge or vow?

You ask me for a pledge, love, some token of my truth;  
Take then this flower, an emblem meet of woman's blighted  
youth;

The perfume of its withered leaves, triumphant o'er decay,  
May whisper of my changeless love when I have passed away!

What, yet another pledge, love ; then mark me while I vow,  
By all this heart hath borne for thee, by all it suffers now ;  
In grief or gladness, hope, despair, in bliss or misery,  
I'll be, what I have ever been—to thee, to only thee !

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### MY NATIVE VALE.

My native vale, my native vale !  
How many a chequered year hath fled,  
How many a vision, bright and frail,  
My youth's aspiring hopes have fed,  
Since last thy beauties met mine eye,  
Upon as sweet an eve as this,  
And each soft breeze that wandered by,  
Whispered of love, repose, and bliss :  
I deemed not then a ruder gale,  
Would sweep me soon from Malhamdale !

Who may the Poet's thoughts unfold  
Ere yet he pours his soul in song,—  
When hopes, all glowing but untold,  
And passions, numberless and strong,  
Are pent within his youthful breast,  
Or murmured but in secret sighs ;  
Till Love, the fondliest cherished guest,  
His fettered tongue at length unties,  
And bids as wild a strain prevail  
As once I breathed in Malhamdale.

And she, who listened to my lays,  
With downcast eye and blushing cheek,  
Her smiles were as the sunny rays  
That bade the lips of Memnon speak ;  
Till all the feelings, wild and warm,  
My swelling heart had nursed so long,  
Yielding to that all-powerful charm,  
Burst forth in one full tide of song ;  
Alas, that dreams so fair should fail ;  
We met no more in Malhamdale !

Ay, they whose fondness made thee seem  
A paradise on earth to me ;  
The one bright star whose tender beam  
Shed light upon my destiny ;  
The kindly sympathies of love,  
The old familiar forms, are flown,  
And, sered in heart, 'tis mine to rove  
This cold and desert world alone :  
I, only I am left to wail  
O'er the lost joys of Malhamdale !

When toiling, 'neath a foreign sky,  
For wealth that none are left to share,  
How oft would Memory's wistful eye,  
Revert to scenes and hours more fair ;  
The village church, my cottage-home,  
With all its clustering woodbines gay,  
The glades through which I loved to roam,  
In years that seemed but yesterday,  
Flashed on my soul, and told a tale  
Of youth, and hope, and Malhamdale.

I never closed my wearied eye  
    But visions sweet as these were mine,  
Nor offered up a prayer on high  
    That did not breathe of thee and thine :  
In dreams by night, in dreams by day,  
    In hours of gloom or revelry,  
Sweet scenes of youth's enchanted May,  
    My thoughts were still of thine and thee !  
What now can Memory's light avail :—  
What now to me is Malhamdale !

And what am I ? An exile pale,  
    With wasted form and withered heart,  
Transplanted to his native vale,  
    To droop awhile, and then depart ;  
To think of all that might have been,  
    Of joys, that gold could never buy ;  
Just wander o'er each long-loved scene,  
    Then seek me out a grave and die ;  
Sleep—with no stone to tell my tale—  
By her I loved, in Malhamdale.

My native vale—my native vale !  
    Even as I mark thy shadows change,  
Sweet strains seem breathing on the gale,  
    I feel a thrilling new and strange ;  
A radiant form is rising now,  
    How fair, upon my waning sight ;  
I know her by her starlike brow,  
    Her loving eyes so blue and bright ;  
She beckons me, life's pulses fail ;  
Adieu, adieu, my native vale !

## TO THE MEMORY OF GEORGE BARRET.

“One morn I missed him on th’ accustomed hill,  
 Along the heath, and near his favourite tree;  
 Another came, nor yet beside the rill,  
 Nor up the lawn, nor at the wood was he !”

GRAY.

WORTHY the disciple of his art divine,  
 Whose golden sunsets, rich romantic shores,  
 And pastoral vales, reflect fair Nature’s face,  
 In every varying charm her beauty wears,  
 How have I loved thy pencil ! Not a grace  
 Shed over earth from yon blue vault above,  
 At Dawn, Noon, Sunset, Twilight, or when Night  
 Draws o’er the sleeping world her silvery veil,  
 But thou hast traced its source and made thine own !  
 Nay, not an hour that circles through the day,  
 But thou hast marked its influence on the scene,  
 And touched each form with corresponding light ;  
 Till all subdued the landscape round assumes,—  
 Like visions seen through Hope’s enchanted glass,—  
 A beauty not its own ; and “cloud-capped towers,”  
 And gorgeous palaces, and temples reared,  
 As if by magic, line the busy strand  
 Of some broad sea, that ripples on in gold  
 To meet the setting sun ! Nor less I prize  
 Thy solemn twilight glooms ; when to mine eye,  
 Indefinite, each object takes the shape  
 That fancy lists ; and in the crimsoned west,  
 Bright as the memory of a blissful dream,

As unsubstantial too, the daylight fades,  
And "leaves the world to darkness and to me."

Primitive Painter! Neither age, nor care,  
Nor failing health,—though all conspired to mar  
The calmness of thy soul,—could dim the power  
Thy pencil caught from Truth. Thou shouldst have lived,  
Where sunny Claude his inspiration drew,  
By Arno's banks, in Tempe's haunted vale;  
Or learned Poussin, 'neath the umbrageous oaks  
Of some old forest, bade his sylvan groups,  
Goddess with Mortal, Faun with Dryad joined,  
To Pan's untutored music circle round.  
For such the themes thy chastened fancy loved;  
But now thy sun has set, thy twilight sunk  
In deepest night, and thou hast sought a sky  
Where never cloud or shade can vex thee more.

---

### A FAREWELL.

YES, I will join the world again,  
And mingle with the crowd;  
And though my mirth may be but pain,  
My laughter wilderment of brain,  
At least it shall be loud.

'Tis true, to bow before the shrine  
Of heartless revelry,  
Is slavery to a soul like mine;  
Yet better thus in chains to pine,  
Than ever crouch to thee.

Ay, better far to steep the soul  
In pleasure's sparkling tide;  
Bid joy's unholy sounds control  
The maddening thoughts that o'er it roll,  
Than wither 'neath thy pride.

Yet I *have* loved thee—oh, how well !  
But words are wild and weak;—  
The depth of that pervading spell  
I dare not trust my tongue to tell,  
And hearts may never speak.

The stubborn pride, none else might rein,  
Hath stooped to love and thee ;  
But, as the pine upon the plain,  
Bent by the blast springs up again,  
So shall it fare with me.

Though thou hast wrapped me in a cloud,  
Nought now may e'er dispel,  
In silentness my wrongs I'll shroud,  
And love, reproach, pain, passion, crowd  
Into *one* word—Farewell !

'Tis done—the task of soul is taught ;  
At length I've burst the spell  
That, 'round my heart so firmly wrought,  
Fettered each loftier, nobler thought ;  
And now, Farewell—Farewell !

## SCENES OF MY CHILDHOOD.

SCENES of my childhood, once more I behold ye,  
'Mid the green waving lindens that graced ye of yore ;  
Friends of my childhood, once more I enfold ye,  
What would my gloom-boding spirit have more !

Scenes of my childhood, in sadness I greet ye,  
Can your freshness and bloom youth's gay season restore ?  
Friends of my childhood, in sorrow I meet ye,  
For a welcome is wanting can glad me no more !

Scenes of my childhood, the breath of your flowers  
Is loaded with memories too painful for bliss ;  
Friends of my childhood, there's gloom in your bowers,  
Oh, where are the bright beaming glances I miss !

Scenes of my childhood, let strangers possess ye ;  
Can ye witness again what ye witnessed of yore ?  
Friends of my childhood, in vain ye caress me,  
For the kiss that was sweetest, can charm me no more !

---

## I THINK OF THEE.

I THINK of thee, I think of thee,  
And all that thou hast borne for me ;—  
In hours of gloom, or heartless glee,  
I think of thee—I think of thee !

When fiercest rage the storms of Fate,  
And all around is desolate,  
I pour on life's tempestuous sea  
The oil of peace with thoughts of thee !

When Fortune frowns, and Hope deceives me,  
And summer-friendship veers and leaves me,  
A Timon from the world I flee ;  
My wreck of wealth, sweet dreams of thee ;

Or if I join the careless crowd  
Where laughter peals, and mirth grows loud,  
Even in my hours of revelry  
I think of thee, I think of thee !

I think of thee, I think and sigh  
O'er blighted years and bliss gone by ;—  
And mourn the stern, severe decree  
That hath but left me thoughts of thee !

In youth's gay hours, 'mid Pleasure's bowers,  
When all was sunshine, mirth, and flowers,  
We met ; I bent th' adoring knee,  
And told a tender tale to thee !

'Twas summer's eve ; the heavens above,  
Earth, ocean, air, were full of love ;  
Nature around kept jubilee,  
When first I breathed that tale to thee !

The crystal arch that hung on high  
Was blue as thy delicious eye ;—  
The stirless shore and sleeping sea,  
Seemed emblems of repose and thee !

I spoke of hope, I spoke of fear,—  
Thy answer was a blush and tear ;—  
But this was *eloquence* to me,  
And more than I had asked of thee !

I looked into thy dewy eye,  
And echoed thy half-stifled sigh,—  
I clasped thy hand and vowed to be  
The soul of love and truth to thee !

That scene and hour have past ; yet still  
Remains a deep, impassioned thrill,—  
A sunset glow on memory,  
That kindles at a thought of thee.

We loved ; how wildly, and how well  
'Twere worse than idle now to tell :  
From love and life alike thou'rt free,  
And *I* am left—to think of thee !

Though years, long years, have darkly sped  
Since thou wert numbered with the dead,  
In fancy oft thy form I see,—  
In dreams, at least, I'm still with thee !

Thy beauty, helplessness, and youth,—  
Thy hapless fate, untiring truth ;  
Are spells that often touch the key  
Of sweet but mournful thoughts of thee !

The bitter frown of friends estranged ;  
The chilling straits of fortunes changed ;  
All this, and more, were borne for me ;—  
Then how can I be false to thee !

I never will : I'll think of thee  
Till fades the power of memory :  
In weal or woe, in gloom or glee,  
I'll think of thee ! I'll think of thee !

---

## THE GRAY HAIR.

COME, let me pluck that silver hair  
Which 'mid thy clustering curls I see ;  
The withering type of Time or Care  
Hath nothing, sure, to do with thee.

Years have not yet impaired the grace  
That charmed me once, that chains me now ;  
And Envy's self, love, cannot trace  
One wrinkle on thy placid brow.

Thy features have not lost the bloom  
That brightened them when first we met :  
No ; rays of softest light illume  
Their unambitious beauty yet.

And if the passing clouds of Care  
Have cast their shadows o'er thy face,  
They have but left, triumphant, there  
A holier charm—more witching grace.

And if thy voice hath sunk a tone,  
And sounds more sadly than of yore,  
It hath a sweetness, all its own,  
Methinks I never marked before.

Thus young, and fair, and happy too,—  
If bliss indeed may here be won,—  
In spite of all that care can do,  
In spite of all that Time hath done ;

Is yon white hair a boon of love,  
To thee in mildest mercy given ;  
A sign, a token from above,  
To lead thy thoughts from earth to heaven ?

To speak to thee of life's decay ;  
Of beauty, hastening to the tomb ;  
Of hopes, that cannot fade away ;  
Of joys, that never lose their bloom ?

Or springs the thread of timeless snow  
With those dark, glossy locks entwined,  
'Mid Youth's and Beauty's morning glow,  
To emblem thy maturer mind ?

It does, it does :—then let it stay ;  
Even Wisdom's self were welcome now :  
Who'd wish her soberer tints away,  
When thus they beam from Beauty's brow !

---

#### TO A SLEEPING CHILD.

My fair-haired boy ! as thus I gaze  
Upon thy calm, untroubled sleep,  
I feel the hopes of other days,—  
The cherished hopes for words too deep,—

Unfold within my heart again,  
Like flowers refreshed by summer rain !

The brightness of thy dark blue eye  
Still peers its half-closed lids between,  
Like glimpses of an April sky  
Through clouds of snowy whiteness seen ;  
And dimpling smiles are lingering now  
Round thy sweet mouth, and sunny brow !

The spirit of some gentle dream  
Hath kindled, sure, thy glowing cheek,  
And lent that half-shut eye the beam  
Which seems in furtive light to speak  
Of tameless glee, of antics wild,  
Of "nods and becks," my sinless child !

October's winds are chill and drear,  
And howl our cottage-home around,  
Whilst emblems of the waning year  
In ceaseless eddies strew the ground :  
I gaze upon a leafless tree,  
And deem it but a type of me.

But when I turn from Nature's waste,  
From thoughts those saddening sights can bring,  
And look on thee, I seem to taste  
The freshness of a second spring ;  
And feelings, long repressed, arise,  
That whisper hopes of brighter skies.

Oh, did not anxious cares alloy  
My bliss with thoughts of future ill,

Now might I taste of perfect joy,  
My heart with sweetest rapture thrill,  
As thus, with yearnings fond and deep,  
I watch my guileless infant sleep !

But bodings full of fear *will* throng,  
Unbidden, on my feverish brain ;  
And thoughts of sickness, blight, and wrong,  
Come back upon my heart again :  
And, sitting by thy side, I grieve  
O'er dreams I cannot choose but weave.

I turn me to the past, and mourn  
That what has been again may be ;  
I weep, lest ills that I have borne  
Should be in store, my child, for thee ;—  
To warp thy truth, to cloud thy brow,  
And make thee all that I am now :

The slave of anguish that has taught  
My harp the echo of my heart,—  
Of hopes, with bright enchantment fraught,  
To stir my soul and then depart,—  
Of gentle thoughts, inspired to bless,  
All turned to tenfold bitterness ;—

Of waning health, a wasted frame,  
Worn by the racking strife within ;  
Of pride not even grief may tame,  
That weighs upon my heart like sin ;  
Of glowing visions of delight  
Dimmed by their own excess of light :

The dupe of every sordid fool,  
With just enough of sense to cheat  
A simple novice in the school  
Where souls grow learnéd in deceit ;  
The victim of man's selfish schemes,  
For deeming him the thing he seems !

Till every finer feeling sered,  
Each kindlier impulse rudely checked,—  
Hopes to my trusting youth endeared,  
Crushed by unkindness or neglect ;  
I look around with altered eye,  
And deem the world all treachery !

Yet it shall have my blessing still,  
And I will worship its decree,  
Will bend unmurmuring to its will,  
Nay, court its frowns and contumely,  
So every wrong it heaps on me  
May win its smile, my babe, for thee.

But, lo ! those merry eyes unclose,  
And dart their thousand meanings round,—  
Thy cheek with fresher crimson glows,  
Thy brow with sunnier light is crowned,  
As, bursting slumber's silken chain,  
Thou bid'st past hopes revive again.

Thus do thou, ever thus, when Care  
Flings her dark shadows o'er my way,  
And hopes, as perishing as fair,  
Like withered leaves have dropped away,  
Shed light upon my heart and brow,—  
To rapture turn my tears as now !

## THE GIRL AND THE HAWK.

FROM A PICTURE BY G. S. NEWTON, R.A.

GRACEFUL "phantom of delight!"  
Glorious type of beauty bright!  
Such as haunts the poet's vision,  
When his dreams are all elysian,—  
When his musing fancy brings  
Shadows of all lovely things;  
And famed Zeuxis' art excelling,  
He hath formed a second Helen,—  
Wanting but the power of speech,—  
From the glowing traits of each!

But she may not vie with thee!  
There's a sweet simplicity  
Flitting round thine open brow,  
Sporting on thy ripe lips now,  
Mantling o'er thy maiden cheek  
In hues that leave description weak;  
With a brightness all too real  
For a poet's *beau ideal*!

Though an angel's grace is thine,  
Though the light is half divine,  
That with chastened lustre flashes  
From beneath thine eyes' dark lashes;  
Yet thy thoughtful forehead fair,  
And that sweetly pensive air,

Speak thee but of mortal birth,  
An erring, witching child of earth ;  
In each varied mood revealing  
Human hope and human feeling ;  
Gladsome now—now vowed to sorrow—  
Glad to-day if sad to-morrow !

Huntress fair, the sport is over,  
Wherefore chain thy feathered rover ?  
Rich indeed the prize must be,  
That could lure him far from thee !  
What to him those silken jesses,  
Tangled in thy glossy tresses ;  
Dazzled by thy beauty's light,  
Can he plume his wings for flight ;  
Fettered by a smile so bland,  
Will he ever leave thy hand ?—  
No ;—let him on thy beauty feed,  
And he'll no firmer jesses need.

---

### THE MELODY OF YOUTH.

DELICIOUS strain ! upon my charméd ear,  
As evening's balmy breath upon a brow  
Fevered with fruitless watchings, dost thou steal,  
To bid my world-worn heart retrace the scenes  
Where first it drank thy sweetness ! What a crowd  
Of home-bred joys, of visions loved and lost,  
That simple cadence brings ; each lengthening note  
Fraught with its own peculiar memory !  
Once seemed that song, so passing mournful now,  
Gay as the dreams of boyhood,—and like them

The source of blameless joy to all around ;  
But when in after years, 'mid busier scenes,  
Again I listened to those wood-notes wild,  
Methought they sounded sadder than of yore :  
Yet were they soothing, for my wayward heart,  
Though something tamed from what it once had been,  
Was still all hope ; and had not wholly lost  
The buoyant spirit only youth can know !  
How sad is now that simple song to me ;  
How changed from what it was when life was new,  
And like the clouds that gird a summer sun,  
Tinged with ethereal brightness, all things 'round  
Gathered their hues of gladness from my heart.

Breathe on ! breathe on ! 'tis soothing sweet to deem  
That what thou wert in other years to me,  
Thou mayst be still to many a youthful heart,  
As joyous, warm, and true as once was mine !  
Strain of my youth, all mournful as thou art  
To me, the tears thy soft, deep notes awaken  
Are grateful as the dew to withered flowers !  
And though thy tenderest notes are ever fraught  
With memories sad, I would not now recall ;  
Yet such their magic influence on my soul,  
I deem them sweetest when they pain me most !

---

### THE EXILES.

'TIS eve on the ocean, the breeze is in motion,  
And swiftly our vessel bounds forth on her way ;  
The blue sky is o'er us, the world is before us,  
Then Helen, my sweet one, look up and be gay !

Why sorrow thus blindly, for those who unkindly  
 Could launch and then leave us on life's troubled sea ;  
 Who so heartlessly scanted the little we wanted,  
 And denied us the all that we asked—to be free !  
 But we've 'scaped from their trammels, the word is "away,"  
 Then Helen, my sweet one, look up and be gay !

On, on we are speeding, and swiftly receding,  
 The white cliffs of Albion in distance grow blue,  
 Now that gem of earth's treasures, that scene of past pleasures,  
 The land of our childhood fades fast from our view !  
 Though thus exiled we sever from England for ever,  
 We'll make us a home and a country afar :  
 And we'll build us a bower, where stern Pride has no power,  
 And the frown of Oppression our bliss may not mar :  
 We have broken our chain, and the word is "away!"  
 Then Helen, my sweet one, look up and be gay !

## LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP.

STEAL his arrow, break his bow,  
 From his eyes the film remove !  
 Clip his wings, and he will grow  
 More like Friendship far than Love.

What though Love no faults may see,  
 Where's the heart he fails to wring ?  
 And whate'er his vows may be,  
 He's for ever on the wing.

Mischief is his cherished aim,  
 Which, though blind, he seldom misses ;  
 And where once he lights a flame,  
 Judas-like he slays with kisses.

Friendship is a safer guest,  
 When without disguise we find her ;  
 And, where once she makes her nest,  
 Vows are not required to bind her.

But would Love her eyes but borrow,  
 Doff his wings, abjure his dart,  
 He should be my guest to-morrow,  
 Never more from me to part.

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### THE DEATH OF POMPEY THE GREAT.

“States vanish, ages fly ;  
 But leave one task unchanged—to suffer and to die.”  
 HEMANS.

Not when his golden eagles flew,  
 In sunbright splendour o'er him,  
 When he came, and saw, and overthrew,  
 And kings bent down before him ;  
 Not in his hour of regal pride,  
 When his navies, darkening Egypt's tide,  
 To fame and conquest bore him,—  
 Did ever Pompey's laurelled brow,  
 To one fond heart seem bright as now.

When a monarch, ay, almost a god,  
Rome's fickle legions crowned him ;  
When nations waited on his nod,  
And myriads thronged around him ;  
Cornelia sat beside his throne,  
His fame, wealth, honours, all her own,  
Hers the sole chains that bound him ;  
But never did her lips avow  
Such deep, devoted love as now.

Forlorn, deserted and betrayed,  
An exile on the wave,  
Doomed of the satraps he had made  
Life's paltry boon to crave ;  
Of wealth, fame, power, even hope bereft,  
Spurned by his summer friends, and left  
No refuge but the grave,—  
What lifts his soul his fate above,  
What but Cornelia's changeless love !

She looks upon Pelugium's strand,  
Fierce hosts are gathering there ;  
And she numbers each succeeding band,  
With a wild and troubled air ;  
Proud ships are dancing in the bay ;  
“Is it their homage thus they pay,”  
She asks, “ or but a snare,  
Some dark device of Cæsar's hate,  
To seal my royal Pompey's fate ?”

A boat comes tilting through the spray  
To bear him to the shore ;  
One kiss, and then away, away !  
One word—and all is o'er !

Vain her entreaties ; vainer now,  
The bodings wild that cloud the brow  
    Her lips may press no more ;  
Bright prows are stirring in the bay ;  
The die is cast, away—away !

A shriek is on that noontide wave,  
    Despairing, loud, and shrill ;  
Oh, that her love had power to save  
    The blood they rush to spill !  
It may not be ; he looks his last,—  
One moment—and the struggle's past ;  
    Even now his heart grows chill ;  
He draws his mantle o'er his eyes,  
And as he lived, great Pompey dies !

And shouts of triumph rend the air  
    From the slaves who mark his fall ;  
But the thrilling voice of that deep despair  
    Is heard above them all !  
'Tis the requiem wild of Woman's love,  
The cry of blood to heaven above,—  
    May vengeance note the call ;—  
And yon dastard traitors' cheeks grow pale  
At the dooming tones of that fearful wail.

'Tis eve ; those savage shouts are o'er,  
    That shriek hath died away ;  
And far from Egypt's fatal shore,  
    Her bark pursues its way ;—  
What is to her the fitful breeze,  
The conflict stern of the skies and seas,  
    To the calm of yonder bay !

She'd rather seek the whirlpool's breast,  
Than on those blood-stained waters rest.

What recks it where the casket lies,  
When the gem it shrined is gone,—  
Who bids the funeral pile arise,  
When the deathless soul is flown !  
And yet, might honours duly paid,  
Truth's tears, appease a warrior's shade,  
For a martyr's wrongs atone ;  
Fall'n chief, those offerings, half divine,  
That incense of the heart, is thine !

Though of all the minions of thy power,  
Who once meet hemage paid thee ;  
Who fawned on thee in fortune's hour,  
And when it waned betrayed thee ;  
Not one court-parasite is near,  
To mourn above the bloody bier,  
Where traitor hands have laid thee ;  
Two humble friends with duteous love,  
Now bend thy mangled form above.

And gathering from the grasping wave,  
The relics of a bark  
Wrecked, like the glories of the brave  
When fortune's clouds grow dark ;  
They spread them for thy funeral pile,  
Then breathing vengeance deep the while,  
Kindle the glowing spark ;  
And flames, as bright as Truth, arise,  
To grace great Pompey's obsequies !

## MUSIC.

MYSTERIOUS keeper of the key  
That opes the gates of Memory,  
Oft, in thy wildest, simplest strain,  
We live o'er years of bliss again !

The sunbright hopes of early youth,  
Love, in its first deep hour of truth,  
And dreams of life's delightful morn,  
Are on thy seraph pinions borne.

To the Enthusiast's heart, thy tone  
Breathes of the lost and lovely one ;  
And calls back moments, brief as dear,  
When last 'twas wafted on his ear.

The Exile listens to the song  
Once heard his native bowers among ;  
And straightway on his vision rise  
Home's sunny slopes and cloudless skies.

The warrior, from the strife retired,  
By Music's stirring strains inspired,  
Turns him to deeds of glory done,  
To dangers 'scaped—and laurels won.

Enchantress sweet of smiles and tears,  
Spell of the dreams of vanished years,  
Mysterious keeper of the key  
That opes the gates of Memory ;

'Tis thine to bid sad hearts be gay,  
Yet chase the smiles of mirth away;—  
Joy's sparkling eye in tears to steep,  
Yet bid the mourner cease to weep !

To gloom or gladness thou canst suit  
The chords of thy delicious lute ;  
For every heart thou hast a tone,  
Can make its pulses all thine own !

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### QUEEN VICTORIA AT SPITHEAD.

WRITTEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE REVIEW, BY HER MAJESTY, OF  
THE EXPERIMENTAL FLEET UNDER THE COMMAND OF ADMIRAL  
HYDE PARKER, AT SPITHEAD, ON 21ST OF JUNE, 1845.

“BRITANNIA rules the waves !”  
Hark to that thrilling song,  
That tells us there shall be no “slaves”  
Her stalwart sons among !  
That, wheresoe'er her flag may wave,  
Her “charter,” won from heaven, she'll keep—  
Still potent to destroy or save—  
Her empire o'er the deep !

Hark to the cannons' roar  
As the Island Queen sweeps by !  
To the cheers from sea to shore,  
That would seem to rend the sky !

Hark, again ! What thunders peal,  
As those “Wooden Walls” reply !  
Till their decks begin to reel  
With that burst of loyalty !

All hail our Ocean Queen !  
Hail, too, our “Wooden Walls !”  
What dreams of glories that have been  
That gallant show recalls !  
What heroes of the mighty deep,  
That long have run their race,  
Uprise from their fame-hallowed sleep,  
In this familiar place !

Too war-worn to take part  
In yon heart-stirring scene,  
Like some bright star that dwells apart,  
*One ship afar is seen ;*  
Safe, in her honoured age, she sleeps  
From storms she once might well defy ;  
And still the post of honour keeps,  
The eidolon of VICTORY !

And bearing many a glorious name  
Of hero-might, or battle-flood,  
Snatched from the brightest scroll of Fame,  
Are ranged yon gallant sisterhood.  
Meet spectacle for England’s Queen ;  
Fit homage to her island reign ;  
Whose proudest boast hath ever been  
Her empire o’er the main !

“Britannia rules the waves !”  
Hark to that thrilling song

That tells us there shall be no “slaves”  
Her stalwart sons among ;  
That wheresoe’er her flag may wave,  
Her “charter,” won from heaven, she’ll keep—  
Still potent to destroy or save—  
Her empire o’er the deep !

---

ON A BEAUTIFUL STATUE BY RICHARD LANE,  
ESQ., OF HIS DEAD CHILD.

I saw thee in thy beauty, bright phantom of the past,  
I saw thee for a moment, ’twas the first time and the last ;  
And though years since then have glided by of mingled bliss  
and care,  
I never have forgotten thee, thou fairest of the fair !

I saw thee in thy beauty, thou wert graceful as the fawn,  
When in very wantonness of glee it sports upon the lawn ;  
I saw thee seek the mirror, and when it met thy sight,  
The very air was musical with thy burst of wild delight !

I saw thee in thy beauty, with thy sister by thy side,—  
She a lily of the valley, thou a rose in all its pride ;  
I looked upon thy mother, there was triumph in her eyes,  
But I trembled for her happiness, for grief had made me wise.

I saw thee in thy beauty, with one hand among her curls,  
The other, with no gentle grasp, had seized a string of pearls ;

She felt the pretty trespass, and she chid thee, though she  
smiled,

And I knew not which was lovelier, the mother or the child.

I saw thee in thy beauty, and a tear came to mine eye,  
As I pressed thy rosy cheek to mine, and thought e'en thou  
couldst die;

Thy home was like a summer bower by thy joyous presence  
made,

But I only *saw* the sunshine, and I *felt* alone the shade.

I saw thee in thy beauty, and a cloud passed o'er my brow,  
As I thought of one as passing fair, as fondly loved as thou;  
I remembered how at set of sun, I blessed him as he lay;  
I remembered, ere its rising, how his soul had passed away.

I see thee in thy beauty, for there thou seem'st to lie,  
In slumber resting peacefully, but, oh! that change of eye,  
That fixed serenity of brow, those lips that breathe no more,  
Proclaim thee but a mockery fair of what thou wert of yore.

I see thee in thy beauty, with thy waving hair at rest,  
And thy busy little fingers folded lightly on thy breast;  
But thy merry dance is over, thy little race is run,  
And the mirror that reflected two can now give back but one.

I see thee in thy beauty, with thy mother by thy side,  
But her loveliness is faded, and quelled her glance of pride;  
The smile is absent from her lips, and absent are the pearls,  
And a cap, almost of widowhood, conceals her envied curls.

I see thee in thy beauty, as I saw thee on *that* day;  
But the mirth that gladdened then thy home, fled with thy life  
away;

I see thee lying motionless upon the accustomed floor,  
 But my heart hath blinded both mine eyes, and I can see no  
 more !

---

ON THE DEATH OF A YOUNG FRIEND, OF FEVER,  
 AT LAGUIRA.

“ By foreign hands thy dying eyes were closed ;  
 By foreign hands thy decent limbs composed ;  
 By foreign hands thy humble grave adorned ;  
 By strangers honoured, and by strangers mourned.”

POPE.

HE left his home with a bounding heart,  
 For the world was all before him ;  
 And felt it scarce a pain to part,  
 Such sunbright dreams came o'er him :  
 He turned him to visions of future years,  
 The rainbow's hues were 'round them ;  
 And a father's bodings, a mother's tears,  
 Might not weigh with the hopes that crowned them.

That mother's cheek is far paler now,  
 Than when she last caressed him ;  
 There's an added gloom on that father's brow,  
 Since the hour when last he blessed him :  
 Oh ! that all human hopes should prove  
 Like the flower that will fade to-morrow ;  
 And the cankering fears of anxious love  
 Ever end in truth and sorrow !

He left his home with a swelling sail,  
 Of fame and fortune dreaming,—

With a spirit as free as the vernal gale,  
Or the pennant above him streaming :  
He hath reached his goal ;—by a distant wave,  
'Neath a sultry sun they laid him ;  
And strangers bent above his grave  
When the last sad rites were paid him.

He should have died in his own loved land,  
With friends and kindred near him ;  
Not have withered thus on a foreign strand,  
With no cherished friend to cheer him.  
But what recks it now ? Is his sleep less sound,  
Where the breezes wild have swept him,  
Than if home's green turf his grave had bound,  
Or the hearts he loved had wept him ?

Then why repine ? Can he feel the rays  
That pestilent sun sheds o'er him ;  
Or share the grief that must cloud the days  
Of the friends who now deplore him ?  
No ; his bark's at anchor, its sails are furled,  
It hath 'scaped the storm's deep chiding ;  
And safe from the buffeting waves of the world,  
In a haven of peace is riding.

---

### FORGET THEE,—NO, NEVER !

FORGET thee,—no, never ! Why cherish a thought  
To the friend of thy soul with injustice so fraught ;  
Why embitter our fast fading moments of bliss  
By suspicion so wild and unfounded as this ?

Forget thee,—no, never ! Among the light hearted,  
Love may droop and decay when the fond ones are parted.  
But affection like ours is too deep and sublime  
To be chilled in its ardour by absence or time.

Then, gentle one, banish all doubt from thy breast ;  
By the kiss that so late on thy lips I impressed ;  
By the griefs that have blighted the bloom of my years :  
By the hope that still calls forth a smile through my tears :

But the hour of our parting, thus sweetly delayed ;  
By truth deeply tried, and by trust unbetrayed ;—  
I will not forget thee !—Till life's latest ray  
In the dark night of death shall have melted away,—

'Mid ambition, fame, poverty, riches, or sadness,—  
Pain or peril, or hate, or contention, or gladness ;  
Let changes the darkest or brightest betide,  
Thy memory shall still be my solace and pride !

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### A DAY DREAM,

WRITTEN AFTER THE AUTHORS RECOVERY FROM ILLNESS.

“ O ! it is pleasant, with a heart at ease,  
Just after sunset, or by moonlight skies,  
To make the shifting clouds be what you please.”

COLERIDGE.

WHY, what a Paradise is earth to-day !  
Some heavy torpor must have locked my soul  
In dull, unvarying listlessness till now !  
Some envious film must sure have dimmed my eyes,

And veiled this world of beauty from my sight,  
For long, long years!—Yon ever glorious sun  
Darts his life-giving beams upon my heart,  
And stirs it to a deeper sense of bliss  
Than e'er it felt before. My pulses grow  
Instinct with new existence, fresher life;  
And all around me gathers as I gaze,  
Hues of a more pervading loveliness  
Than it was wont to wear! The clouds above  
Flow on like molten silver; now and then  
Fretted with crimson tinges, and anon  
Streaked with the deep blue of the upper sky,  
That spreads and spreads beyond them in a sea  
Of living sapphire. Multitudes of forms,  
Palpably bright and beautiful, are moving  
Athwart the depths of heaven; and I see,—  
So Fancy in her wayward mood would deem,—  
File upon file of rich and gorgeous shapes  
Advancing, and advancing without end!

Throned in a car, inwoven of the beams  
Of the descending sun, whose flashing wheels  
Leave a long trail of glory as they speed,  
Towers the mighty and majestic form  
Of the Imperial Captain;—HIM who led  
The forces of th' Omnipotent against  
The dark and daring Lucifer, and hurled  
The “race rebellious” to “combustion down”  
And “bottomless perdition!” On his brow,  
His starry brow, a coronal is wreathed,  
Worthy the temples of the King of kings!  
His shining sword is sheathless, and its blade,  
Like a death-dooring meteor ere it falls

In ruin upon earth, flashes in light,  
In terrible light, whichever way it turns !  
Celestial scorn, defiance without pride,  
And all the wrath the son of God may own,  
Hath curled his lip in beautiful disdain.

In the distance,  
A huge, slow-moving mass appears to rise,  
Darkening the sky. I look again, and lo !  
Myriads of forms, in phalanx firm conjoined,  
Press on to ruin in one turbulent host  
'Gainst the celestial Chief. In the van,  
The master Demon lifts his lordly crest  
In proud and insolent triumph, and abroad  
Waves his tremendous falchion ! In his eye,  
Pride, hate, ambition, cruelty are glassed,  
As in a mirror. O'er his lofty front  
His ebon locks, Medusa-like, are wreathed  
In many a snaky fold ; and on his brow,  
Undiademed, are throned revenge sublime,  
Bloated defiance, lust of pomp and power,  
And resolution not to be subdued.

Those hostile bands advance, and now have gained  
Midway the arch of heaven !—They pause awhile,—  
Then to the charge, and straight from pole to pole,  
The bray of battle rings !

The sun hath dropped  
Into the blushing bosom of the West,  
And with him the bright pageant too hath vanished !  
The clash of helm and shield, the sounds of war,  
Fancy had wafted on my dreaming ear,

Have sunk to silence. Not a breath disturbs  
The deep serene around me ; and above,  
Rises a lofty cupola of sky,  
In blue, eye-soothing beauty and repose !  
No battling seraphim are there ; but clouds  
Slow sailing on, in placid loveliness,  
Like pleasure-barks upon a summer sea.  
No shields and helms shine forth in dazzling lustre ;  
But where the God of day hath left his smile,  
Are countless hues cameleon-like, that change  
As the glance strives to trace them, and become  
Momently deeper than before ; anon,  
Twilight begins to weave her fairy web  
Of light and gloom, and, from the deepening East,  
Night spreads her ebon arms to clasp the world.

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## MEET ME AT SUNSET.

MEET me at sunset, the hour we love best,  
Ere day's last crimson blushes have died in the west ;  
When the shadowless ether is blue as thine eye,  
And the breeze is as balmy and soft as thy sigh ;  
When giant-like forms lengthen fast o'er the ground  
From the motionless mill and the linden trees round ;  
When the stillness below, the mild radiance above,  
Softly sink on the heart, and attune it to love.

Meet me at sunset,—oh ! meet me once more,  
'Neath the wide-spreading thorn where you met me of yore,

When our hearts were as calm as the broad summer sea  
 That lay gleaming before us, bright, boundless, and free;  
 And, with hand clasped in hand, we sat spell-bound, and  
 deemed

That life would be ever the thing it then seemed:—  
 The tree we then planted, green record, lives on,  
 But the hopes that grew with it are faded and gone.

Meet me at sunset, beloved, as of old,  
 When the boughs of the chestnut are waving in gold;  
 When the starry clematis bends down with its bloom,  
 And the jasmine exhales a more 'witching perfume.  
 That sweet hour shall atone for the anguish of years,  
 And though fortune still frown, bid us smile through our  
 tears:

Through the storms of the future shall soothe and sustain;  
 Then, meet me at sunset—oh, meet me again!

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### INVOCATION TO THE ECHO OF A SEA-SHELL.

“ Murmuring from within  
 Were heard, sonorous cadences, whereby  
 To his belief the monitor expressed  
 Mysterious union with its native sea.”

WORDSWORTH.

Voice of the deep, illimitable sea,  
 Discarded offspring of the wind and wave!  
 That, like a captive struggling to be free,  
 Thus ever moan’st in thy mysterious cave,—  
 Art thou a siren, by some sea-god’s spell,  
 Prisoned in this smooth shell?

Or, but a spirit of the vasty deep,  
Called up to earth by some enchanter's wand?—  
Whose was the charm that broke thy long, cold sleep,  
And sent thee, murmuring, from thy parent sand?  
How wert thou ushered to the realms of day,  
Siren or spirit, say?

Yet more,—I would know more! I burn to pierce  
The hidden secrets of thine ocean home;—  
Where are the victims of its surges fierce,  
Who dreamed of calms, to wake amid their foam;  
The souls that perished 'neath the stormy wave,  
When none were nigh to save?

Where are the stately ship and gallant crew,  
Whose hapless fate is sealed to all beside;  
The warrior bold a fear that never knew;  
The gentler hearts that death could not divide?  
Where are the lost and loved so many seek?  
Speak, I conjure thee, speak!

How dost thou answer? With a low, sweet dirge,  
Sad as the booming of the sullen main,  
The far-off warnings of the restless surge,  
When storms are growing into strength again!  
Perchance a requiem for the glorious dead,  
Youth, beauty, valour, fled.

Whate'er thy source and purpose, I rejoice  
To list thy mystic murmurings, soft and clear:  
To me thou seemest like a still, small voice,  
By Conscience whispered in my world-vexed ear,  
To lead my soul from grovelling things of earth,  
To hopes of loftier birth!

## THE WEDDING DAY.

“ The last ! the last ! the last !  
Oh, by that little word,  
How many thoughts are stirred ! ”

CAROLINE SOUTHEY.

NAY, chide me not ! I cannot chase  
The gloom that wraps my soul away ;  
Nor wear, as erst, the smiling face  
That best beseems this hallowed day :  
Fain would my yearning heart be gay,  
Its wonted welcome breathe to thine ;  
But sighs come blended with my lay,  
And tears of anguish blot the line.

I cannot sing, as once I sung  
Our bright and cheerful hearth beside ;  
When gladness ruled my heart and tongue,  
And looks of fondest love replied :  
The meaner cares of earth defied,  
We heeded not its outward din,  
How loud soe'er the storm might chide,  
So all was calm and fair within.

A blight upon our bliss hath come ;  
We are not what we were of yore—  
The music of our hearts is dumb ;  
Our fireside mirth is heard no more !

The little cricket's chirp is o'er  
That filled our happy home with glee ;  
The dove hath fled whose pinions bore  
Healing and peace for thee and me.

Our youngest born, our autumn flower,  
The best beloved, because the last ;  
The star that shone above our bower,  
When many a cherished dream had passed ;  
The one sweet hope, that o'er us cast  
Its rainbow form of life and light,  
And smiled defiance on the blast,  
Hath vanished from our eager sight.

Oh ! sudden was the wrench that tore  
Affection's firmest links apart,  
And doubly barbed the shaft we wore  
Deep in each bleeding heart of heart :  
For who can bear from bliss to part,  
Without one sign, one warning token ;  
To sleep in peace, then wake and start,  
To find life's fairest promise broken ?

When last this cherished day came round,  
What aspirations sweet were ours ;  
Fate, long unkind, our hopes had crowned,  
And strewn, at length, our path with flowers.  
How darkly now the prospect lowers ;  
How thorny is our homeward way ;  
How more than sad the evening hours  
That used to glide like bliss away.

And, half infected by our gloom,  
Yon little mourner sits and sighs ;

His playthings, scattered 'round the room,  
    No more attract his listless eyes :  
Mutely his infant task he plies,  
    Or moves with soft and stealthy tread ;  
And called, in tones subdued replies,  
    As if he feared to wake the dead.

Where is the blithe companion gone,  
    Whose sports he loved to guide and share ?  
Where is the merry child who won  
    All hearts to fondness ? Where, oh, where !  
The empty crib, the vacant chair,  
    The favourite toy, alone remain,  
To whisper to our hearts' despair  
    Of hopes we cannot feel again.

Ay, joyless is our "ingle nook,"  
    Its genial light we own no more ;  
Our fireside wears an altered look,  
    A gloom it never knew before !  
The converse sweet, the cherished lore,  
    That once could cheer our stormiest day ;  
Those revels of the soul are o'er,  
    Those simple pleasures passed away.

Then chide me not, I cannot sing  
    A song befitting love and thee ;  
"My heart and harp have lost the string"  
    On which hung half their melody :  
Yet soothing sweet it is to me,  
    Since fled the smiles of happier years,  
To know that still our hearts are free,  
    Betide what may, to mingle tears.

## SAPPHO.

“It was her evil star above,  
Not her sweet lute that wrought her wrong ;  
It was not song that taught her love,  
But it was love that taught her song.”

L. E. L.

THOUGH many an age hath passed away,  
Fair Sappho, since thy birth,  
Thy name, as a familiar sound,  
Still lingers on the earth.

Whence is thy power to hold the mind ?  
What spells to thee belong ?  
Which is the stronger tie to bind,  
Thy sorrows, or thy song ?

Though Fame o'erflowed her charméd cup,  
And bade thee freely take,  
Thy thirst was of the lonely heart,  
No earthly waters slake.

Thy history, 'twas no common lot ;  
Thy wreath how dearly won !  
The idol of a thousand hearts,  
That sighed in vain for one !

Thus fared it in the days of old,  
And thus it fares to-day :  
Genius but gives to froward Fate  
A double barb to slay.

## TO OCTAVIA,

THE INFANT DAUGHTER OF THE LATE JOHN LARKING, ESQ.

FULL many a gloomy month hath passed,  
On flagging wing, regardless by,  
Unmarked by aught, save grief, since last  
I gazed upon thy bright blue eye,  
And bade my lyre pour forth for thee  
Its strains of wildest minstrelsy ?  
For all my joys are withered now,  
The hopes I most relied on thwarted,  
And sorrow hath o'erspread my brow  
With many a shade since last we parted :  
Yet, 'mid this murkiness of lot,  
Young Peri, thou art unforget!

There are who love to trace the smile  
That dimples upon Childhood's cheek,  
And hear from lips devoid of guile  
The dictates of the bosom break :  
Ah, who of such could look on thee  
Without a wish to rival me !  
None : his must be a stubborn heart,  
And strange to every gentler feeling,  
Who from thy glance could bear to part  
Cold and unmoved, without revealing  
Some portion of the fond regret  
That dimmed my eyes when last we met !

Sweet Bud of Beauty ! 'mid the thrill,  
The sickening thrill of hope delayed,—  
Peril, and almost every ill  
That can the breast of man invade,—  
No tender thought of thine and thee  
Hath faded from my memory :  
For I have dwelt on each dear form  
Till woe, awhile, gave place to gladness,  
And that remembrance seemed to charm,  
Almost to peace, my bosom's sadness ;  
And now, again, I breathe a lay  
To hail thee on thy natal day !

Oh, might my fervent prayers prevail  
For blessings on thy future years,  
Or innocence, like thine, avail  
To save thee from affliction's tears,—  
Each moment of thy life should bring  
Some new delight upon its wing :  
And the wild sparkle of thine eye,  
Thy guilelessness of soul revealing,  
Beam ever thus as brilliantly ;  
Undimmed, save by those gems of feeling,  
Those soft, luxurious drops that flow  
In pity for another's woe !

But vain the wish ; it may not be ;  
Could prayers avert misfortune's blight,  
Or hearts from sinful passion free  
Here hope for unalloyed delight,  
Then, those who watch thine opening bloom  
Had never known an hour of gloom :

No ; if the chastening stroke of Fate  
On guilty heads alone descended,  
They would not sure have felt its weight,  
In whose pure bosoms, sweetly blended,  
Life's kindliest social virtues move  
In one unfailing tide of love.

Then since upon this earth joy's beams  
Are fading, frail, and few in number,  
And melt like the light-woven dreams  
That steal upon the mourner's slumber ;  
Sweet one ! I'll wish thee strength to bear  
The ills that heaven may bid thee share :  
And when thine infancy hath fled,  
And Time with Woman's zone hath bound thee,  
If, in the path thou'rt doomed to tread,  
The thorns of sorrow lurk and wound thee,  
Be thine that exquisite relief  
That blossoms in the springs of grief !

And like the many-tinted bow,  
That smiles the showery clouds away,  
May Hope, Grief's Iris here below,  
Attend and cheer thee on thy way,  
Till full of years, thy cares at rest,  
Thou seek'st the mansions of the blest !  
Young sister of a *mortal* NINE,  
Farewell ! perchance a long farewell !  
Though griefs unnumbered yet be mine,—  
Griefs, Hope may vainly strive to quell,—  
'Twill half unteach my soul to pine,  
If there be bliss for thee and thine !

## MORNING.

“Morn,  
Waked by the circling Hours, with rosy hand  
Unbars the gates of Light.”

MILTON.

Oh, burst the bonds of slumber,  
Beloved, awake, arise !

Night’s shades are furled  
From the breathing world,  
And ’tis morn in the Eastern skies :  
Flowers fair and without number,  
Unfold their gorgeous dyes ;  
Morn speeds apace  
On her glorious race,  
Then open thy star-like eyes ;  
Sweet Helen, awake, arise !

Rich, milk-white clouds are sailing  
Like ships upon stormless seas ;  
The heavens grow bright  
With liquid light,  
And fragrance loads the breeze :  
Morn’s melodies prevailing,  
Sweep through the trembling trees ;  
The lark’s in the sky,  
And the linnet on high,  
And wilt thou be less blithe than these ?  
Sweet Helen, awake, arise !

The dew-bent rose is baring  
Its breast to the golden sun ;  
    New splendours shower  
        On temple and tower,  
And the stir of day's begun :  
We'll do a deed of daring  
Ere Phœbus' race be run ;  
    Our bark's below,  
        And the breezes blow,  
And our goal will soon be won :—  
Sweet Helen, awake, arise !

What recks it to hearts like ours,  
Where we resolve to flee ?  
    Not far we'll roam  
        For a blissful home,  
Since Paradise dwells with thee !  
We'll steer for Pleasure's bowers,  
With Hope, through life's dark sea ;  
    And Love shall guide  
        Us through the tide,  
And our trusty Pilot be :  
Sweet Helen, awake, arise !

## STANZAS WRITTEN AT VAUCLUSE.

“ Petrarch spent the greater part of the summer of 1346 at Vaucluse. During his former sojourn there, he had, by confining the stream of the Sorgue, gained a small piece of ground, which he converted into a garden ; but the river overflowed its artificial bank, and he was finally compelled to abandon it. He has made his ‘Battle with the Naiads’ the subject of a Latin Poem.”

CAMPBELL’S LIFE OF PETRARCH.

Not by his song, although its notes were sweet  
As though his lips had only honey known ;  
Nor by his love, it was a flame unmeet,  
Did Petrarch make all hearts, save one, his own !

We know his gentle spirit suffered wrong ;  
Its shadowy hopes we know, less shadowy fears ;  
His lot was cast among the sons of song,  
Sealed with their seal, the baptism of tears.

With his hopes shipwrecked, did he not retire  
To sternest lore in manhood’s golden prime ;  
Bid Learning’s half-extinguished torch aspire,  
And his own tongue make perfect for all time ?

Cimmerian darkness veiled the Muses’ land,  
Till he arose and set the captives free :  
For this her sons still bless his gracious hand ;  
For this her daughters still bow down the knee.

And do I stand where he himself hath stood ;  
And do mine eyes behold what his have seen !  
A dream perchance of even the self-same mood  
My spirit knows, as on his own hath been.

There wells his fountain clear as Castaly ;  
There in its might his river foams along ;  
There frowns the stately castle still on high,  
Whose every stone is vocal with his song.

Valclusa's plains are rugged as before  
His classic hand their ruggedness would till ;  
And for his garden, as he said of yore,  
“The Muses and the Naiads battle” still.

Fair is the scene,—yet earth owns many such ;  
There doth the heart more than the eye behold ;  
There was it that his mind's irradiate touch  
Turned, like the sun, life's common things to gold.

All that the spirit loathes around was spread ;  
Rapine and wrong the mastery had obtained ;  
His genius stood between the quick and dead,  
And “the great plague” of grossness was restrained.

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### WOMAN'S LOVE.

Among the nobles charged with being the accomplices of Duke John of Swabia in the assassination of the usurper Albert of Austria in 1308, was the Baron Rudolph Vonder-Wart; and although, as is clear from the concurring testimony of the Swiss historians, he had taken no part whatever in the affair, he was seized by Agnes, the surviving daughter of the tyrant, and, after a mock trial, condemned to be broken alive upon the wheel. For three days and two nights did he endure, without shrinking, the fearful agony of his cruel mode of punishment, during the whole of which time his wife, a beautiful young woman of the illustrious house of Balm, kept watch beside him, regardless of either food or shelter, with the most heroic firmness. On the evening

of the third day, his frame having become exhausted by the intensity of his sufferings, he murmured faintly the words, "Gertrude, this is fidelity until death," and expired. His unhappy lady retired soon afterwards to a convent at Basle, where she died of a broken heart.

'Tis morn: o'er Kyburg's castled crag day's first faint streak appears,  
Like the ray of Truth through Error's mists, or the smile through Woman's tears;  
With gradual step it glides along, from cloud to cloud, and now  
Bathes in a flood of living light Mongarten's frowning brow.

The sun looks out, the heavens are gay, the earth beneath them shines,  
And the fitful breeze hath ceased to toss yon broad, black sea of pines;  
The storm that lately ravaged earth hath sunk into its lair,  
And left "a scene of power to charm all sadness save despair!"

Beneath yon mountain's gloomy crest a crowd is gathering fast,  
To see, on murder's hellish wheel, a hero breathe his last:  
What though his quivering clay be cold before that sun hath set,  
Draw near, a noble lesson learn, it is not soulless yet!

Mangled, and bleeding at each pore, denied the bliss to die,  
Coiled 'round that dread machine he lies in fearful agony;  
Two days exposed to sun and storm, and bleaching in the blast,  
Those ghastly limbs have struggled there, but this will be the last.

Not his the crime for which he writhes, not his the 'vengeful  
    dart,  
Launched with unerring aim, that lodged in Albert's tyrant  
    heart;  
He would have braved him in the field, defied him in his  
    might,  
Not tracked his lone, defenceless steps with felon shaft to  
    smite.

His innocence availed him not, they knew the quenchless  
    hate  
He bore that despot's iron rule, and dragged him to his  
    fate;  
Then stormed his undefended towers, and left of all his  
    train  
Of friends or vassals, kin or kind, but ONE to soothe his  
    pain.

And not in pity was she spared from that remorseless  
    slaughter,—  
'Twas but to glut the rage refined of Austria's wolfish  
    daughter;  
But ere her vengeance was complete, she glided from her  
    power,  
And flew to lighten with her prayers her Rudolph's parting  
    hour.

And bending o'er her dying lord that faithful woman stands,  
With pallid cheek, dishevelled hair, and clasped, beseeching  
    hands;  
The aid denied to her on earth she craves from One above;  
And sure, if mortal prayers avail, hers will not bootless  
    prove!

They brained her babe before her eyes, even smiling in its sleep !

They wrenched her Rudolph from her arms, she shrieked, but did not weep ;

She heard the sentence of their hate, but still she shed no tear ;

They marred her beauty with their chains ; she burst them, and is here !

Awed by such more than mortal love, the ruthless slaves around,

Even to the minister of death, are silent and spell-bound ;

They dare not for their souls approach what to their wondering eyes

Shows like some radiant seraph form descended from the skies.

Well may they deem her not of earth, for earth hath seldom seen

Such holy love, such fervid faith, so suffering yet serene ;

But when the cloud of blight descends, of darkness and despair, Upon the trusted head and heart, what will not Woman dare !

That scene is all deserted now, that martyr's pangs no more ;  
And she who soothed his parting hour, her vigil too is o'er ;  
For when her last sad hope was gone, her stricken heart to hide,

She sought a covert from her foes, wrenched out the dart, and died.

## AMIENS CATHEDRAL.

"The House of God is the HOME of the sorrowful."

ANNA MARIA PORTER.

THE doors unfold ! I gaze with breathless thrill ;  
All that my fancy pictured there appears ;  
Strange that stone walls should have the power to fill  
The heart with gladness, and the eye with tears :  
Like a tired child that gains its mother's breast,  
I enter in, and feel my soul at rest !

I might not speak, too sacred seemed the spot ;  
I could not sigh, for peace was with me then ;  
The world with all its idle cares forgot :  
Oh, were thine architects but sinful men !  
An atmosphere of heaven seemed breathing 'round,  
Thy walls bade welcome, though without a sound.

Silence descended like a brooding dove ;  
Pontiff, procession, all had passed away ;  
Motion was not, save that the hand of love  
Pointed from twilight to the perfect day !  
I stilled my heart, and held my breath to hear  
Words that seemed whispering in my dreaming ear.

"Hath love of glory taught thine heart to sigh,  
Honour's bright wreath, the thirst for high renown,  
Lured thee, from step to step, to climb on high,  
Then dashed the chalice and the votary down ?

Foiled, crushed, and trampled spirit, draw thee near,  
A world-rejected heart is cherished here !

“ Hath love beguiled thee with his promise fair,  
Bliss unalloyed, affection’s self unchilled,  
Won thy young heart to give thee back despair,—  
A poisoned cup from sweetest flowers distilled ?  
Leave withered hopes for those that ne’er grow sere,  
A love unchangeable is promised here.

“ Gifted of nature, spendthrift of the mind,  
A golden idol is thy master-taste ;  
Let go each cherished sin, howe’er refined,  
The hidden talent, feelings run to waste :  
Dreamer, awake, shake off thy coward fear,  
Gird up thy loins, and know thy strength is here !

“ Regretful spirit, brooding o’er the past,  
Achievements high conceived, but never won ;  
Draw near and down thy heavy burthen cast,  
Remorse for ‘ good received, and evil done :’  
Give passion utterance and free way the tear,  
Sorrow that worketh joy awaits thee here !

“ Heart-broken prodigal, why stand afar !  
This House of Refuge, is it not for thee ?  
World-spent and wearied with life’s ceaseless jar,  
Shake off thy bondage, triumph, and be free :  
Welcome awaits thee, plenteous is the cheer ;  
Peace to thee, weary one, thy rest is here !

“ Sorrowful spirit, whatsoe’er the grief  
That forged thy fetter, make that grief thy plea ;

HE who in suffering was the Martyr-Chief,  
Hath balm for all, whate'er the wound may be :  
A shadowy path leads to a cloudless sphere,  
But till ye gain it, know your home is here !”

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## THE CLOSING SCENE.

“ Who can bring healing to her heart's despair,  
Her whole rich sum of happiness lies there.”

CROLY.

PALE is his cheek with deep, impassioned thought,  
Save when a feverish hectic crosses it,  
Flooding its lines with crimson. From beneath  
The long, dark fringes of its drooping lid  
Flash forth the fitful glances of his eye  
With an unearthly brightness. On that lid  
The swelling brow weighs heavily, as though  
Bursting with thought for utterance too intense !  
His lip is curled with something too of pride  
Which ill beseems the meekness and repose  
That should, at such an hour, within his heart,  
Spite of this world's vexations, be combined.  
'Tis not disdain ; for only those he loves  
Are near him now, with soft, low-whispered words  
Tendering heart-offered services, and watching,  
With fond inquietude, the couch on which  
His slender form reclines. What can it be ?—  
Perchance some rooted memory of the past ;  
Some dream of injured pride that fain would wreak  
Its force on dumb expression ;—some fiercee wrong

That his young soul hath suffered unpeased :  
But thoughts like these must be dispelled before  
That soul can plume its wings to part in peace.  
And now his glance is lifted to the face  
Of one who bends above him with an air  
Of fond solicitude, and props his head,  
With her own graceful arm, until at length  
The sliding pillow is replaced ; but, ere  
His cheek may press on its uneven down,  
Her delicate hand hath smoothed it.  
Too well divineth he the voiceless woe  
That breathes in each unbidden sigh, and beams  
From her large, loving eyes ! Too well he knows  
That grief and keen anxiety for him  
Have chased the rose from her once brilliant cheek.  
His quivering lips unclose, as if to pour  
The fond acknowledgments of duteous love  
In that sweet mourner's ear ; but his parched tongue  
Its aid refuses. Gathering then each ray,  
Each vivid ray, of feeling from his heart  
Into a single focus, in his eye  
His inmost soul is glassed, and love, deep love,  
And grateful admiration, beam confessed  
In one wild, passionate glance ! The gentle girl  
Basks her awhile in that full blaze, then stoops,  
And, hiding her pale face upon his breast,  
Murmurs sounds inarticulate but sweet  
As the low wail of summer's evening breath  
Amid the wind-harp strings. Then bursts the tide  
Of woe that may no longer be repressed,  
Stirred from its source by chill, hope-withering fears,  
And from her charged lids big drops descend  
In swift succession. With more tremulous hand

Clasps she the sufferer's neck. Upon his brow  
The damps of death are settling, and his eyes  
Grow fixed and meaningless. She marks the change  
With desperate earnestness; and staying even  
Her breath, that nothing may disturb the hush,  
Lays her wan cheek still closer to his heart,  
And listens, as its varying pulses move,  
Haply to catch a sound betokening life.  
It beats—again—another—and another,—  
And now hath ceased for ever! What a shriek,  
A shrill and soul-appalling shriek bursts forth,  
When the full truth hath rushed upon her brain!  
Who may describe the rigidness of frame,  
The stony look of hopeless misery  
With which she hangs o'er that unmoving clay!  
Not I; my pencil hath no further power,  
So here I'll drop the Greeian painter's veil!

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## ON REVISITING A SCENE OF EARLY LIFE.

“It is the same clear dazzling scene,  
Perhaps the grass is scarce as green;  
Perhaps the river's troubled voice,  
Does not so plainly say ‘Rejoice.’”

W. B. PROCTER.

SWEET pastoral Vale! when hope was young,  
And life looked green and bright as thou,  
Ere this world's toils or cares had flung  
A shade of sadness on my brow,—  
A loiterer in thy sylvan bowers,  
I whiled away uncounted hours,

And by thine own sequestered stream,  
Poured forth in song love's first, wild dream !

Bright River, as it lapsed along  
In glory, on its winding way,  
Like Youth's first hopes, rejoicing, strong,  
And full of heaven's own hues as they,—  
I little thought that storms would fling  
Their shadows o'er so fair a thing ;  
Or that *my* course would ever be  
Less calm than then it seemed to me.

I came when wintry winds were high,  
And storms were hurtling in the air ;  
Thy river rushed a torrent by,  
Thy skies were dim, thy trees were bare ;  
And that lone ruin erst that rose  
An emblem of thy charmed repose,  
Seemed struggling with the fitful blast,  
Like some gaunt spectre of the Past.

A change was in my aching breast,  
As dark as that I found in thee ;  
Thoughts, as thy waves impetuous, pressed  
O'er my sad soul tumultuously,  
As gazing on that altered scene,  
I thought of what we both had been :  
I see thee calm and fair once more ;  
When will my stormier day be o'er ?

And thou art now a fairy dream  
To stir the source of sweetest tears ;  
Thy sun-touched fane, and sparkling stream,  
My beacon-lights to other years :

Oh, might my world-worn spirit close  
Its weary pinions in repose,  
I would not ask more perfect bliss  
Than such a resting-place as this !

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## ON THE DEATH OF A CHILD.

“Sweet flower ! with flowers I strew thy narrow bed !  
Sweets to the sweet. Farewell !”

SHAKSPEARE.

A CLOUD is on my heart and brow,  
The tears are in my eyes,  
And wishes fond, all idle now,  
Are stifled into sighs ;—  
As musing on thine early doom,  
The bud of beauty snatched to bloom,  
So soon, 'neath milder skies,  
I turn, thy painful struggle past,  
From what thou art to what thou wast !

I think of all thy winning ways,  
Thy frank but boisterous glee,  
Thy arch, sweet smiles, thy coy delays,  
Thy step, so light and free ;  
Thy sparkling glance, and hasty run,  
Thy gladness, when the task was done,  
And gained thy mother's knee ;—  
Thy gay, good-humoured, childish ease,  
And all thy thousand arts to please !

Where are they now, and where, oh where,  
The eager, fond caress,  
The blooming cheek so fresh and fair,  
The lips all sought to press ?  
The open brow and laughing eye,  
The heart that leaped so joyously ?  
Ah, had we loved them less !  
Yet there are thoughts can bring relief,  
And sweeten even this cup of grief.

Thou hast escaped a thorny scene,  
A wilderness of woe,  
Where many a blast of anguish keen  
Had taught thy tears to flow ;  
Perchance some wild and withering grief  
Had sered thy summer's earliest leaf,  
In these dark bowers below,  
Or sickening thrills of hope deferred,  
To strife thy gentlest thoughts had stirred !

Thou hast escaped life's fitful sea  
Before the storm arose,  
Whilst yet its gliding waves were free  
From aught that marred repose ;  
Safe from the thousand throes of pain,  
Ere sin or sorrow breathed a stain  
Upon thine opening rose ;—  
And who can calmly think of this,  
Nor envy thee thy doom of bliss ?

I culled from home's beloved bowers  
To deck thy last long sleep,  
The brightest hued, most fragrant flowers  
That summer's dews may steep :

The rosebud, emblem meet, was there,  
The violet blue, and jasmine fair,  
That drooping seemed to weep ;—  
And now I add this lowlier spell :—  
Sweets to the passing sweet, farewell !

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## EGYPT UNVISITED.

SUGGESTED BY MR. DAVID ROBERTS'S EGYPTIAN SKETCHES.

THE poetry of earth is fading fast ;  
It hath no region it can call its own ;  
The dim religious light of old that cast  
Mysterious beauty on its haunts hath flown !

Science, with eye of microscopic power,  
And disenchanting lamp, from land to land,  
With railroad speed continues still to scour,  
Till scarce a spot on earth remains unscanned.

Even the vast Pyramid hath now become  
A thing whose secrets all are known too well ;  
The Harp of Memnon is for ever dumb ;  
And even the Sphinx hath nothing left to tell ;

The Nile, so long a river of the heart,  
Hath now no mystic problem to unveil ;  
And its drear desert, once a thing apart  
From common roads, we soon may cross by rail !

No green oasis now enchanteth the eye,  
With its tall palms and fountains bubbling o'er ;  
The desert ship we loved in days gone by,  
Is but a camel now, "and nothing more!"

Then why through Egypt should I seek to roam,  
Fancy to feed with scenes that will but mock it ;  
With graphic Roberts for my guide (at home),  
And Murray's trusty "Hand-Book" in my pocket.

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### THE AVALANCHE.

'Tis Night ; and Silence with unmoving wings  
Broods o'er the sleeping waters ;—not a sound  
Breaks its most breathless hush. The sweet moon flings  
Her pallid lustre on the hills around,  
Turning the snows and ices that have crowned,  
Since Chaos reigned, each vast, untrodden height,  
To beryl, pearl, and silver ;—whilst, profound,  
In the calm, waveless lake, reflected bright,  
And girt with arrowy rays, rests her full orb of light.

The eternal mountains momently are peering  
Through the dark clouds that mantle them ; on high  
Their glittering crests majestically rearing,  
More like to children of the infinite sky,  
Than of the daedal earth. Triumphantly,  
Prince of the whirlwind, Monarch of the scene,  
Mightiest where all are mighty ; from the eye  
Of mortal man half hidden by the screen  
Of mists that veil his base from Arve's dark, deep ravine,

Stands the magnifieent Montblanc ; his brow  
 Scarred with innumerous thunders ;—most sublime,  
 Even as though risen from the world below  
 To mark the progress of Decay ; by clime,  
 Storm, blight, fire, earthquake, lessened not ; like Time,  
 Stern chronicler of centuries gone by,  
 Doomed by a heavenly fiat still to climb,  
 Swell and increase with years incessantly,  
 Then yield at length to thee, most dread Eternity !

Hark ! there are sounds of tumult and commotion  
 Hurtling in murmurs on the distant air,  
 Like the wild music of a wind-lashed ocean ;—  
 They rage, they gather now ; yon valley fair  
 Still sleeps in moon-bright loveliness, but there  
 Methinks a form of horror I behold  
 With giant-stride descending ! 'Tis Despair,  
 Riding the rushing Avalanche ; now rolled  
 From yon steep slope—by whom—what mortal may unfold ?

Perchance a breath from fervid Italy  
 Unloosed the air-hung thunderer ; or the tone  
 Poured from some hunter's horn ; or, it may be,  
 The echoes of the mountain cataract, thrown  
 Amid its voiceful snows, have thus called down  
 The overwhelming ruin on the vale.  
 Howbeit a mystery to man unknown,  
 'Twas but some unseen power that did prevail,  
 For an inscrutable end, its slumbers to assail.

Madly it bursts along, like a broad river  
 That gathers strength in its most fierce career ;  
 The black and lofty pines a moment quiver  
 Before its breath, but, as it draws more near,

Crash—and are seen no more. Fleet-footed Fear,  
 Pale as that white-robed minister of wrath,  
 In silent wilderment her face doth rear,  
 And, having gazed upon its blight and scathe,  
 Flies with the swift chamois from its death-dooming path !

---

### TO POESY.

“Poesy ! thou sweet’st content  
 That e’er Heaven to mortals lent,  
 Though for thy sake I am crossed,  
 Though my best hopes I have lost,  
 And I knew thou’dst make my trouble  
 Ten times more than ten times double,  
 I should love and keep thee too,  
 Spite of all the world could do.  
 Though thou be to them a scorn  
 That to nought but earth are born;  
 Let my life no longer be,  
 Than I am in love with thee !”

WITHER.

I ALWAYS loved thee, gentle Poesy !  
 And though thou oft hast served to work me woe,  
 Do love thee still ;—nurtured beneath thine eye,  
 “For me the meanest, simplest flowers that blow,  
 Have often thoughts that lie too deep for tears.”  
 Not all the joys the multitude can know,  
 Should e’er seduce my bosom to forego  
 Thy sacred influence : yet from earliest years,  
 Like that frail plant whose shrinking leaves betray  
 The careless pressure of an idle hand,  
 My heart, unschooled in guile, could ne’er command  
 Its hecatics of the moment :—let thy ray,  
 Then, thou sweet source of sorrow and delight,  
 Beam on thy votary’s soul with more attempered light.

## THE HOME OF TALIESSIN.

The remains, consisting of little more than the foundation-stones, of the dwelling of the celebrated Welsh bard Taliesin, are still pointed out in a romantic gorge of the mountains near Llanrwyst, at no great distance from the Druid waves of Llynn Geirionedd. The view which is commanded from this spot is one of the most picturesque that can be imagined.

I STOOD on the spot where the famed TALIESSIN,  
“ The Prince of the Bards,” had his dwelling of old ;  
Sad thoughts on my memory, unbidden, were pressing,  
Of hopes wildly thwarted, and friendships grown cold !

Eve was yielding to twilight ; yet still richly glowing,  
The deep skies reflected the sun that had fled ;  
And below me, in musical murmurs, were flowing  
The bright purple waters of Llynn Geirionedd.

I looked on the mighty hills gathered around it,—  
Like Titans they stood, with their cloud-girded brows :  
And I thought of the minstrel whose genius had crowned it,  
As I gazed on their summits of shadows and snows.

I called on his name who had roused from her slumbers  
Sweet Echo, how oft, in her deep-hidden lair ;  
I asked, where, and oh where, breathes he now his wild  
numbers ?  
And the mountains around answered, where, and oh where ?

Years have fleeted since then ;—but in sickness and sadness,  
As I muse on the hopes that once promised so fair,  
I ask, where, and oh where, are those visions of gladness ?  
And my bosom's deep cell echoes, where, and oh where ?

---

### I WILL NEVER LOVE THEE MORE !

I WILL never love thee more,  
Though I loved thee once so well ;  
Why, a prodigal, the store  
Of my bosom's inmost cell,  
Should I waste on one who ne'er  
Won a truthful heart before ;  
Let who will thy favours share,  
I will never love thee more !

I will never love thee more !  
Wherefore to an idol bow,  
Why a deity adore,  
Heartless, hollow, cold as thou !  
Fools the facile smiles may win,  
That 't was mine to win of yore ;  
Worship misapplied, is sin ;  
I will never love thee more !

I will never love thee more,  
Though I loved thee once so well :  
Love's illusion now is o'er,  
Take, then, take my last farewell !

Should thy practised wiles again  
Touch some truthful bosom's core,  
Be the thought not stirred in vain,  
*Why I* ne'er can love thee more !

---

## A LAMENT FOR THE FAIRIES.

“ O, ye have lost,  
Mountains and moors, and meads, the radiant throng  
That peopled your green solitudes and filled  
The air, the fields, with beauty and with joy  
Intense ; with a rich mystery that awed  
The mind, and flung around a thousand hearths  
Divinest tales, that through the enchanted year  
Found passionate listeners !”

CARRINGTON.

BEAUTIFUL fictions of our trusting youth,  
(Visions we sigh that we have only dreamed !)  
When Fancy mocked the searching gaze of Truth,  
And the whole earth with bright enchantments teemed ;

How have we loved to forest glades to flee ;  
By haunted streams (in thought) to take our stand ;  
To watch you circling round the greenwood tree,  
Or trace your gambols on the moonlit strand !

Or, when in gorgeous panoply arrayed,  
To grace some pageant of the Elfin Queen,  
You pricked along, a gallant cavalcade,  
Painting the verdant turf a livelier green !

Nor less we loved you, when, with pitying air,  
And hand beneficent, around you showered

Gifts, might the world's and nature's spite repair,  
And leave the homeliest maiden doubly dowered !

But the bright realm of Fairyland is gone ;  
Its Iris-tinted train hath passed away ;  
And Ariel, Mab, Titania, Oberon,  
But grace the painter's scene, or poet's lay !

Even Puck, dear imp of mischief and of mirth,  
"O'er hill and dale," at length hath ceased to range ;  
Though long-eared Bottoms cumber still the earth,  
Whose "asses' nowls" he is not here to change !

The "Sword of Sharpness" is no longer keen ;  
The "Seven League Boots" we distance, now, at will ;  
Our sole surviving "Giant" is the Spleen ;  
Which we, like David, with a stone can kill !\*

No more, no more, upon the velvet mead,  
On mushroom tables, are your banquets spread ;  
No more, with flying feet, the dance you speed,  
'Till dimming glow-worms hint 'tis time for bed !

No "fairy favours" now reward the fair ;  
Nor pearls nor diamonds from her lips are told ;  
No elfin matron makes her bliss her care,  
With purse exhaustless, filled with fairy gold !

Your aid unseen, like angel-help, in vain,  
The toil-worn hind may, in his strait, implore ;  
The "shadowy flail," to ease his task, will rain  
Its stalwart blows in his behoof no more !

\* Fling but a stone the Giant dies!—GREEN'S SPLEEN.

Virtue no longer, in her sorest needs,  
By fairy hands is rescued from her thrall ;  
And rampant Vice, how dark soe'er his deeds,  
Your well-earned frowns may now no more appal !

The superstitions sweet that charmed our youth ;  
The large belief that bade us still dream on ;  
The dear illusions we mistook for truth ;  
The shaping power that gave them grace ;—are flown !

With grosser forms this nether earth is rife ;  
Even Fancy, now, must walk in Reason's guise ;  
And, in a world of real care and strife,  
We grow, alas, far sadder if more wise !

There is no love in this material age,  
For shapes impalpable, we cannot clutch ;  
Knowledge hath spread so wide her ample page,  
That, for our bliss, we often learn too much !

The broad, fiercee glare of her pervading light,  
Is too intense for forms all fancy-born ;  
That owe mysterious beauty to the night,  
But melt beneath the earliest rays of morn ;

Yet these fair fictions of our youthful day,  
We have but changed for guides less kind and bland ;  
The glittering cheats that lead us now astray,  
Are falser far than those of Fairyland !

Love, Friendship, Hope, Ambition, Glory, Pride,  
All, ignis-fatuuus-like, by turns, invite ;  
But when we follow, make a circuit wide,  
Where fields are dank, and there withdraw their light.

Though Poets still, as they were wont of yore,  
With filial love to fairy legends cling ;  
The charm is half dispelled, and they no more  
Believe the magic wonders that they sing.

Yet, till the Muse from earth is driven away,  
And young Romance hath broken, too, *her* wand,  
Will elfin lore still grace the Poet's lay,  
And his heart's home be still in Fairyland !

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### NAPOLEON'S DREAM.

It was the dead midnight ;  
No star was in the sky ;  
The struggling moon shed a troubled light  
As she won her way on high ;

And deepest silence hung,  
Like a garment, o'er the land !  
When a loud and shrill reveillé rung  
From a grisly drummer's hand !

It rolled through the startled space,  
That wild, unearthly sound ;  
'Till the martyred dead of a doomed race,  
Uprose, and crowded 'round !

From the sleeping City near ;  
From the bright and genial South ;  
From the sands of Egypt's deserts drear ;  
From the Danube's stormy mouth ;

From the ice-realms of the North;  
 From devoted Moscow's plain;  
 Burst the might of armed myriads forth  
 To that stirring call again!

From the depths of Lybian seas;  
 From the Tyrol's mountains blue;  
 From the base of the snowy Pyrenees;  
 From the deadly Waterloo!

For, many a far-off land,  
 And many a wandering wave,  
 Had heard that loud and stern command,  
 And had yielded up its brave!

A trumpet-peal is blown;  
 Those scattered hosts combine;  
 And the soldier-slaves of the Iron Crown  
 Arise, and make their sign.

On shadowy chargers mounted,  
 With swords uplifted high,  
 From battle-fields uncounted,  
 The Imperial Guards draw nigh;—

A legion old and hoary,  
 With cheeks all ghastly white;  
 With bosoms gashed and gory,  
 But Eagles golden bright;

They raise their pallid brows,  
 In the wan moon's sickly glare;—  
 But, vain the once-loved sight to rouse  
 Napoleon's deep despair!

Still the Drummer by his side  
Plies his bleached and fleshless arm ;  
Till, surging on like the ocean tide,  
Those grisly spectres swarm !

They shout no *vivats* now,  
For the chieftain once so dear ;  
For curses deep, though murmured low,  
Alone salute his ear.

Ha ! whence that phantom throng  
That file before him now,  
And drag their maimed limbs along  
So painfully and slow !

From Jaffa's burning plain  
Those shadowy forms have wended ;  
With cool and sordid treachery slain,  
When the battle-strife had ended.

He shuts his conscious eyes,  
Their shrinking sense to save ;  
But a darker scene within them lies ;  
'Tis the gallant Enghein's grave !

The torches glare around  
Where the dauntless Bourbon kneels,  
In the castle fosse, on the damp, chill ground,  
As the murderous volley peals !

The muffled drum tolls out  
The youthful hero's knell :—

Napoleon starts, 'tis the battle shout,  
And the roll of the shrill reveil !

Myriads before him spread,  
Their standards rear on high ;  
But the flags are white as the charnelled dead,  
For the grave hath the victory !

He strains his sight to look  
Beyond that shadowy train ;  
What doth he see but a barren rock,  
A vulture, and a chain !

The drum hath ceased to roll ;  
That despot's dreams are o'er ;  
And the ebbs and flows of his stormy soul  
Are stayed for evermore !

His empires all are gone ;  
His trappings, once so proud ;  
A rock-bound grave is his only throne,  
And his kingly robe a shroud :

And he, whose dread commands  
To millions once were doom,  
Hath claimed, at length, from alien hands,  
A lone, unhonoured tomb.

## TO A CHILD BLOWING BUBBLES.

“Visions of childhood ! oft have ye beguiled  
Lone manhood’s cares, yet waking fondest sighs ;  
Ah ! that once more I were a careless child !”

COLERIDGE.

THRICE happy Babe ! what radiant dreams are thine,  
As thus thou bidd’st thine air-born bubbles soar ;—  
Who would not Wisdom’s choicest gifts resign  
To be, like thee, a careless child, once more.

To share thy simple sports, and sinless glee ;  
Thy breathless wonder, thy unfeigned delight,  
As, one by one, those sun-touched glories flee,  
In swift succession, from thy straining sight !

To feel a power within himself to make,  
Like thee, a rainbow whereso’er he goes ;  
To dream of sunshine, and like thee to ’wake  
To brighter visions, from his charmed repose.

Who would not give his all of worldly lore,—  
The hard-earned fruits of many a toil and care,—  
Might he but thus the faded past restore,  
Thy guileless thoughts and blissful ignorance share.

Yet Life hath bubbles too, that soothe awhile  
The sterner dreams of man’s maturer years ;  
Love—Friendship—Fortune—Fame—by turns beguile,  
But melt, ’neath Truth’s Ithuriel-touch, to tears.





Thrice happy Child ! a brighter lot is thine ;  
(What new illusion e'er can match the first ?)  
We mourn to see each cherished hope decline ;  
Thy mirth is loudest when thy bubbles burst.

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## THE LOVE OF POETRY NOT EXTINCT.

ON HEARING IT ASSERTED THAT THE AGE OF POETRY, LIKE THAT OF  
CHIVALRY, WAS GONE.

“ Blessings be with them, and eternal praise,  
Who gave us nobler loves, and nobler cares,  
The Poets,—who on earth have made us heirs  
Of Truth and pure delight by heavenly lays !”

WORDSWORTH.

It is not true, it cannot be,  
That the love of Song is o'er ;  
Though the mightier masters of the Lyre  
May wake their harps no more :  
Though cold are now their tuneful lips,  
To us shall still belong  
A heritage of priceless gifts,  
Bequeathed in deathless Song !

Did love of country die with them ;  
Pride in our Island birth ;  
Or Honour to the dust go down,  
When they returned to earth ?  
Did the heart's best affections cease,  
When they resigned their breath ?  
Were Love, Hope, Loyalty, and Faith,  
Extinguished by their death ?

No ; in immortal verse embalmed,  
Preserved from blight and chill,  
Each loftier impulse of our being  
Survives to bless us still :  
Love, that from earth can never fade  
Each inspiration high,  
That teaches us the way to live,  
And tells us how to die !

Come, Mariners of England, forth,  
Ye of the dauntless soul,  
Who bear our conquering flag aloft,  
From Pole to farthest Pole !  
Ho ! Soldiers of a hundred fights,—  
A household word each name,—  
Come forth, and battle for the Muse  
That imps so oft your fame !

Spirits of that devoted Band,  
On earth beheld no more,  
Old England's Chivalry that led  
On sea and land of yore ;  
Answer from out your storied tombs  
And shield the Muse from wrong ;  
Are not departed heroes' deeds  
Recorded best in Song ?

Saints militant ! who fought so oft  
'Gainst man's most stubborn foe ;  
And won ye crowns, more radiant far  
Than earth could e'er bestow ;  
In your Great Captain's steps who trod,  
No hope forlorn your fight,

And suffered bondage, stripes, and death,  
To testify His might;

Ye noble band of Martyrs, who,  
In God's "whole armour" mailed,—  
The shining panoply of Faith,—  
O'er Sin and Death prevailed;  
Hath not the Muse, with pious care,  
Your glorious triumphs sung,  
Till your heroic deeds have grown  
The theme of every tongue!

Champions of Freedom! who have shunned  
The ignis fatuus ray,  
That mocks her sacred light, and leads  
Even noblest hearts astray;  
Ye, who her beacon fires have fed,  
Her "meteor flag" unfurled,—  
And stayed the haughty despot's stride  
Across a vassal world;—

Who joy the trampled heart to raise,  
Unloose the captive's chain,  
And Liberty's heaven-chartered rights  
To strengthen and maintain:  
Prompt in the council as the field,  
The weak to ward from wrong;  
Was not your noblest daring learned  
From the trumpet-voice of Song?

Heralds of Peace! still toiling on  
To give the heathen light;  
Ye who would compass sea and land  
To gain one proselyte;—

Have ye not raised the feeble up,  
And bowed to earth the strong,  
As, Moses like, ye struck the heart  
With the charmed wand of Song!

Mourners! how deep soe'er the griefs  
That weigh your spirit down;  
A hearth made desolate and dark  
By Fortune's angriest frown;  
The death of some long-cherished friend,  
When friends, alas! are few;  
The wild estrangement of a heart  
You once believed so true:

Though Sorrows "in battalions" come,  
With which 'tis hard to cope,  
And the sad soul, beleaguered 'round,  
Hath nothing left but Hope;  
What spell can lull the tempest's rage,  
Appease the spirit's wrong,  
Like the precepts of the Poet's page,  
The solace of his Song!

Philosophers! so keen of sight,  
Inquisitive, and, oh!  
So wise, men marvel how your heads  
Can carry all you know;  
Who dim each impulse of delight,  
By diving to its cause;  
And will not give us leave to feel  
Save by your latest laws;

Still peer among the stars to find  
Some planet yet unknown;

But leave that world the human heart,  
And its mystic chords alone !  
Rob not the Poet of the right  
He hath maintained so long ;  
The realms of earth and sky be yours,  
But leave him those of Song !

Votaries of Science ! whose exploits  
The world with wonder fill,  
Who faster than the wind can speed  
The mandates of your will ;  
Cross not the Poet's woodland path,  
He never did you wrong ;  
Harvests of wisdom still go reap,  
But leave to earth its Song !

Ye Mammon-worshippers ! forbear  
To vent on Song your spleen ;  
Pactolus is your cherished fount,  
Your only Hippocrene !  
The Golden Age of Peace and Love,  
By poets hymned of old,  
Would have no charm for such as you,  
Who crave an Age of Gold !

Still to your Baal bend the knee,  
Your sordid homage pay,  
Till the base idol topples down,  
And proves but worthless clay !  
For you the minstrel's tuneful art  
Were ever plied in vain,  
Who centre every thought in self,  
Whose only God is gain !

*He* hath no wisdom in the lore  
With which *your* hearts are filled ;  
A novice in the Halls of Pride ;  
In the world's ways, a child !  
Suffering, the badge of all his tribe,  
Is his, neglect and wrong,  
And Sorrow teaches him, too oft,  
The burthen of his Song !

Yet from that dark and bitter spring,  
Like Marah's fount of yore,  
Flows many a sweet and healing draught,  
For thirsting hearts and sore ;  
And proud and thrilling strains had slept,  
That now to earth belong,  
Had not the kindling touch of grief  
Prompted so oft the Song !

When he, the well-beloved of Heaven,  
The monarch-minstrel sung,  
Truths, that come home to every breast,  
Resound from every tongue ;  
Oppressed, by "trouble" compassed round,  
And foes, in falsehood strong,  
The sorrows that subdued his heart,  
But sanctified his Song !

The love of Song can never fade,  
Whilst gentle hearts are rife,  
To feel the sunshine and the balm,  
It sheds on human life !  
Whilst Youth, fond, warm, ingenuous youth,  
In faith and hope so strong,

Finds his heart echo to its tones,  
Can he choose but love the song ?

“Earth’s Poesy is never dead,”  
’Tis breathing everywhere,  
In the starlight stillness of the night,  
In the bright, warm, noon-tide air ;  
The grassy glade, the waving wood,  
The broad, upheaving sea ;  
The intermittent flash and roar  
Of Heaven’s artillery ;

The mountain-tops by sunshine crowned,  
Whilst girt by clouds below ;  
The twin-notes of the cuckoo’s shout,  
The summer twilight’s glow ;  
The corn that sways with every breeze ;  
The river smooth yet strong,  
That glides like life away ; all, all  
Are redolent of Song.

It is not sooth, it cannot be,  
That the love of Song is o’er !  
That the strains that were our childhood’s spell,  
May charm our sons no more !  
Till Fancy fades, and Hope grows chill,  
And Pity’s self hath fled,  
The love of Poesy can ne’er  
In British hearts be dead.

Then, “blessings on the sons of Song,  
Eternal praise be theirs,

Who gave us truth and pure delight,"  
And "nobler loves and cares."  
And the "still, small voice of Gratitude"  
Must cease for aye on earth,  
Ere we forget, or cease to prize,  
Their wisdom and their worth.

---

### THE LIGHTHOUSE.

YES, Desolation on her viewless wing,  
Even now, perhaps, is speeding with the blast  
In deathful haste ;—with angry visiting  
The surges sweep around us, and the mast,  
Bereft of sail, bends like a fragile reed  
Submissive to the storm. But for yon light  
I had begun to deem this dreary night,  
For us, would have no morn. In greatest need,  
When through life's sea man's erring bark is driven,  
Thus doth the beacon Hope with friendly gleam  
Speak peace unto his soul ; and though its beam  
Bring not immediate aid, it can create  
Courage to bear the buffetings of Fate  
With patience, till he reach the sheltering port of Heaven.

## RHINE SONG.

It was from the heights above Caub (opposite to the Pfalz), that the view of the Rhine first burst upon the Prussian troops, on their victorious return from France, and drew from them a simultaneous and exulting shout of "The Rhine! the Rhine!" which was repeated as each division came in sight of the river. They subsequently knelt down, and sung, as with one heart and voice, their national song, "Am Rhein, Am Rhein!"

IT is the Rhine, our own abounding river !  
To home-sick hearts a vision half divine !  
Its rapid current swiftly flows as ever ;  
It is the Rhine ! be blessings on the Rhine !

It is the Rhine, with duteous homage kneeling,  
In one wild burst let heart and voice combine,  
To swell our prayerful song, to heaven appealing ;  
The Rhine ! the Rhine ! be blessings on the Rhine !

It is the Rhine, our own imperial river ;  
How brightly still its rippling waters shine ;—  
Hark to the shout that makes the tall pines quiver !  
The Rhine ! the Rhine ! be blessings on the Rhine !

It is the Rhine that laves our fatherland  
(The seat of all we love, fair Freedom's shrine) ;  
Above its haunted depths once more we stand ;  
It is the Rhine ! be blessings on the Rhine !

Broken and spent, from battle-fields returning,  
Our haven won, we will no more repine ;

We left its banks for fame and conquest burning ;  
Our goal, at length, is gained : the Rhine ! the Rhine !

River of many hearts ! rejoice, rejoice !  
Glory and Freedom once again are thine !  
Echo each storied height, with trumpet voice,  
The Rhine ! the Rhine ! be blessings on the Rhine !

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#### LINES WRITTEN ON A BLANK PAGE OF THE POEMS OF WORDSWORTH.

HIGH Priest of the Nine ! Poet, Prophet, and Sage,  
What deep lessons of wisdom are taught in thy page !—  
There the young and the old, sad and mirthful, may find  
Each, reflected in sunshine, some “mood of his mind ;”  
There, the simple may learn with kind feelings to glow,  
And the wise may discover how little they know !  
There, the broken in spirit may find solace and balm,  
And the tempest-tossed bosom be taught to grow calm ;  
The rich, there are treasures that gold cannot buy ;  
The poor, that there is but one rank in the sky ;  
The guileless, their whiteness of spirit to keep ;  
And the guilty, that vengeance not always will sleep !  
There the gentle enthusiast whose heart hath been sown  
With pure poesy’s seeds, some soft feeling may own,  
Some loved dream, in his heart cherished fondly and long,  
That he wanted the science to weave into song !  
There, the Pilgrim of Nature in fancy may stray,  
Where thy silver-bright Duddon glides calmly away,

By its flower-fringed margin its wanderings to trace,  
 Till his thoughts are as placid and pure as its face :  
 There the Dreamer who tracks the swift footsteps of Time,  
 And for ever would muse 'mid his ruins sublime,  
 Who delights to the deeds of past ages to turn,  
 Will find lore that his spirit has thirsted to learn :  
 From the song of proud Dion, so solemn and sweet,  
 To thy "silver-white" Doe and her Sabbath retreat !  
 Each high theme of the Lyre hath awoke at thy call,  
 Every chord hast thou touched, and drawn music from all !

---

## I'VE ROAMED THE WIDE WORLD OVER.

I'VE roamed the wide world over,  
 From Indus to the Pole ;  
 I've been a general lover,  
 And loved with all my soul ;  
 Whate'er her height, hair dark or light,  
 Confined or flowing free ;  
 Eyes, azure bright or black as night,  
 'Twas all the same to me.

Whatever flowers are springing,  
 My bosom's tares above,  
 Whatever thoughts are clinging  
 To my heart of peace and love,—  
 Were planted there by Woman's care,  
 And nurtured 'neath her eye :  
 To her I clung, when life was young ;  
 Be hers my latest sigh !

In our hours of pain and sorrow,  
    No balm is like her tear ;  
Even our joys more sweetness borrow,  
    When she we love is near !  
Then fill me up a brimming cup,  
    To drink to Woman's worth ;  
And may she prove in heaven above,  
    The bliss she makes on earth !

---

## A WOMAN'S LAST SONG.

FROM AN UNPUBLISHED ROMANCE.

'TIS now that softening hour  
    When love hath deepest power,  
To stir the fond heart with its dreams of delight ;  
    When even the sickening thrill  
    Of hope deferred is still,  
And the sunset of feeling grows golden and bright.

    Oh believe me then in this,  
    Though, in moments of bliss,  
Every pulse of thy heart found a response in mine ;  
    When the storm upon us came,  
    I may merit thy blame,  
But, so sweet was our sorrow, I could not repine.

    Forgive me if I deemed  
    Fate kinder than it seemed,  
If I smiled at the world and its wildest alarms ;

If I inly blessed the grief  
 That bade thee seek relief  
 In the loving and cherishing pale of my arms.

Was loss of wealth severe  
 When a fond one was near  
 To soothe thee, and make thee a Croesus in love ?  
 Or vexations all must bear,  
 Worth a thought or a care,  
 Which a kiss, and thou'st owned it, a kiss could remove ?

What are life's petty ills,  
 Its hecticics or its chills,  
 Can they weaken affection or wither its flowers ?  
 No ; to hearts with feeling warm,  
 Love's the bow of the storm,  
 That grows broader and brighter the faster it showers.

Thus will it ever be,  
 On the world's troubled sea,  
 When two fond ones are cleaving in concert their way ;  
 Though clouds sometimes may hide  
 Them, and tempests divide,  
 They'll be nearer than e'er when the rack drives away.

In life's genial spring,  
 As on Pleasure's light wing  
 Through her bowers of enchantment we joyously roved ;  
 With feelings, hopes, and fears,  
 Far too deep for our years,  
 In that spring-burst of sunshine we met and we loved !

Thou wert then of an age  
 When the stormy passions rage  
 More wildly the harsher earth's wise ones reprove ;  
 Pride and gentleness combined,  
 In thy deep heart were shrined ;  
 The softness and fire of the eagle and dove !

Though Fortune was unkind,  
 To thy merits ever blind,  
 Still thy soul could unstooping her malice endure ;  
 And what though thou wert thrown  
 On this wide world alone,  
 Did I love thee the less for being friendless and poor ?

What is wealth, what is wealth,  
 Could it purchase me health,  
 Or secure for us moments more blissful than those  
 We together oft have passed,  
 When even Fate's chilling blast  
 Could not ruffle our own little heaven of repose !

Surely not, surely not ;  
 Every grief was forgot,  
 Whilst enfolded by thee on thy bosom I hung ;  
 And though tempests raged above,  
 They were harmless to love,  
 For the wilder the ruin the closer we clung.

But the sun has looked his last,  
 And the day is fading fast,  
 And night's shades are o'erwhelming my heart and my song ;  
 Fare thee well, a long farewell ;  
 I have broken the spell  
 That has bound me to earth and its witcheries too long !

## INSCRIPTION.

STRANGER ! if from the crowded walks of life  
Thou lovest to stray, and woo fair Solitude  
Amid her woodland bowers ;—silent to brood,  
Apart from the world's vanities and strife,  
O'er Nature's charms, her fairest haunts behold,  
Let this sweet spot thy roving steps arrest !  
Say, dwells the canker Care within thy breast ?  
Yon streamlet, murmuring o'er its sands of gold,  
Shall soothe thee with soft music ; and thine eye,—  
Albeit unused to glisten with delight,—  
Survey the scene here opening on thy sight,  
With raptured gaze !—Oh, if beneath the sky,  
Stranger, to mortal man such home be given,  
What may HE hope, whose eye is fixed on Heaven !

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## A REMONSTRANCE TO CAMPBELL,

ON HIS PROPOSING TO TAKE UP HIS PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN LONDON.

DEAR Poet of Hope ! who hast charmed us so long  
With thy strains of home-music, sweet, solemn, and strong ;  
Now, smooth as the stream when 'tis chained and at rest,  
And the hues of the sky lie like flowers on its breast,—

Now sweeping in glory and might on its way,  
And now struggling from shadows and darkness to day.  
Oh, leave not the haunts most propitious to song,  
For the city's wild strife and the jar of the throng !—  
Though the freshness of feeling that prompted in youth  
Thy heart-stirring measures hath died ; and the truth  
That is shrined in the soul when life's voyage is begun,  
May be something impaired ere the haven be won ;  
Though the visions have fled that gave light to thy spring,  
And thy heart and thy harp each is wanting a string ;  
Like the leaves on the tree that no tempest may kill,  
There are feelings unwithered that cling to thee still !  
Alas, that a poet, so gifted, should leave  
Life's green vale of repose, 'mid the many to weave  
Lays that cannot but breathe of the source whence they spring :  
How unlike the wild wood-notes he once used to sing !  
What marvel his Muse's strong pinion should sink,  
If so turbid the waters her spirit must drink ;  
Can we wonder her plumage should lose its proud dyes,  
If she trails on the earth what was formed for the skies !  
No ; the Poet's a star that shines brightest apart ;  
Let him revel at will in the world of the heart,  
But the moment he strives 'mid the crush of the throng,  
Like a bird too much handled he loses his song ;  
And the fools who once worshipped his light from afar,  
Are the first to proclaim him no longer a star !

## A CHRISTMAS SONG.

"The present moment's all our own,  
The next, who ever saw !"

MICKLE.

COME, fill me up a brimming cup,  
We'll season wine with wit and song;  
For earthly joy, without alloy,  
Not often comes, nor tarries long:  
Unthrift it were, to look for Care,  
No need hath he Time's wings to borrow;  
Then, friends, be gay with me to-day,  
And I'll be wise with you to-morrow!

With loved ones near, good friends, good cheer,  
The fireside glow, and genial heart;  
Why should we look in Fate's black book,  
The present moment's mirth to thwart!  
In green old age, the Christmas Sage,  
Should never wear a frown or furrow;  
Then, friends, be gay with me to-day,  
And I'll be wise with you to-morrow!

The cuckoo flies from wintry skies,  
And seldom fails to find a spring;  
And, happy bird, is never heard,  
A single, saddening note to sing!  
But even if right, in Reason's spite,  
To fly from joy, and seek for sorrow,  
Still, friends be gay with me to-day,  
And I'll be wise with you to-morrow!

## THOU HAST FLASHED ON MY SIGHT.

THOU hast flashed on my sight,  
Like a spirit of love,  
In my sorrow's deep night,  
From the regions above !  
And thy beauty's calm light  
With new lustre seems crowned,  
As the star shows more bright  
From the darkness around !

And thy voice, sweet and low  
As the echo of song,  
Or the streamlet's soft flow,  
As it murmurs along,  
Seems a balm to impart  
In this desolate hour,  
That refreshes my heart,  
As the dew-drop the flower.

Like the Angel that came  
To St. Peter, by night :  
With as holy an aim,  
And a forehead as bright ;  
Hast thou burst on my sadness,  
A dream of delight ;  
Turning sorrow to gladness,  
And darkness to light !

## ENVOY.

## I.

SPRING breathes around us ; the bright air is filled  
With glittering life, and odours dewy sweet ;  
The far off stir, by mellowing distance stilled,  
Scarce wafts a murmur to our green retreat ;  
Come, let us seek the old accustomed seat,  
Together watch day's ebbing waves decline ;  
Till our full hearts bow down, with reverence meet,  
To Him who gave that glowing light to shine—  
Bright in its morning prime, but at this hour divine !

## II.

Lo ! what a flush is reddening all the skies,  
What rays supernal yon proud throne surround,  
What magic splendour, what unnumbered dyes,  
Yon setting sun's increasing orb hath crowned !  
Those golden bars upon their purple ground,  
Seem each to fancy's eye a glowing stair  
Leading to glories more and more profound !  
How sweet to gaze upon a heaven so fair,  
And deem our loved, and lost, are spher'd for ever there !

## III.

It is a thought that well the scene beseems,  
Bright, tranquil, soothing, full of hope and peace ;

The cherished vision of unnumbered dreams ;  
The faith that bids all keener anguish cease.  
For what was death to them ? A sweet release  
From all the mean and sordid cares of life ;  
From Pride's cold taunt, from Fortune's wild caprice ;  
From all the ills with which this world is rife ;  
Its blind but bitter hate, its perfidy and strife !

## IV.

All that our trusting hearts have bled to know ;  
Much that our aching breasts must brave again ;  
The hollow friend, the smooth, insidious foe ;  
Keen self-reproach for gifts bestowed in vain ;  
And all the racking "family of Pain !"  
Oh, if 'tis sweet to 'scape such withering woes ;  
To break the bondage of so hard a chain ;  
How doubly blest the timeless doom of those  
Who, all unstained by earth, enjoy that deep repose !

## V.

And such their lot, for whom we love to shed  
Tears, that of rapture more than grief partake ;  
Locked in that slumber of the sinless dead,  
No strife can stir, no agony can break :  
Thrice blessed art thou for those fair children's sake ;  
Fetters of love to link thee to the skies !  
Whoe'er would wish from such a dream to wake ;  
Who but must envy thee those holiest ties,  
A mother's yearnings fond for babes in Paradise !

## VI.

Yet not to them be all thy thoughts still given,  
Who bask in smiles that earth could ne'er bestow ;

But turn thy tearful eyes awhile from heaven,  
 To helpless claimants on thy love below !  
 See, where yon archer bends his mimic bow,  
 With eager eye to trace his arrow's flight ;  
 Can mortal hope a fairer promise show ?  
 Look where the shaft hath struck,—he laughs outright,  
 Until his infant form seems buoyant with delight !

## VII.

And to that mirth an answering echo rings,  
 From the enchanted nursling on thy knee,  
 As all abroad her slighted toys she flings,  
 His sport to join with sympathetic glee ;  
 Struggling with hot impatience to be free,  
 And share the triumphs of that wondrous feat :  
 Nor all unmoved doth he her gladness see ;  
 But hastes the practised marvel to repeat,  
 Till the blue welkin rings with laughter wild and sweet.

## VIII.

And canst thou list and not be joyous too,  
 That simple music of the guileless heart ?  
 Canst thou those sweet and sinless raptures view,  
 And in their bliss refuse to bear a part ?  
 Forbid it, love, all gentle as thou art ;  
 Forbid it, too, that fond, maternal smile ;  
 Then let each sad and boding thought depart,  
 Turn from life's cankers and its cares awhile,  
 And let such sights and sounds thine anxious heart beguile !

## IX.

Deem it not strange I should prefer the string  
 That best accords with gentle themes like these,

And leave the realm of Fancy's wilder wing,  
 To sing of home and homebred sympathies :  
 Content with few and simple notes to please,  
 And win a poet's meed from hearts like thine,  
 All unambitious prouder wreaths to seize,  
 The Muse's loftier vision I resign,  
 So that her twilight tears and sunset smiles be mine !

## X.

The youthful lover's hopes and fears to tell ;  
 Of childhood's budding bloom and happy death ;  
 Of those high thoughts that bid the soft heart swell,  
 When glowing Faith resigns her sainted breath ;  
 To catch the hues from Pity's dew-spent wreath,  
 And bid them live a moment in my lay ;  
 To mourn, some old, umbrageous oak beneath,  
 O'er joys that wither like the waning day,  
 And wear their loveliest smiles even whilst they fade away !

## XI.

Or, haply, murmuring of some peaceful cot,  
 The home of pleasures pure, pursuits refined ;  
 Some quiet nook, some calm, sequestered spot,  
 Radiant with triumphs of the heart and mind ;  
 Where Poesy and Painting sit enshrined ;  
 Where Art and Nature yield their treasures chaste,  
 And charm their votaries with their spells combined ;  
 Where Genius' self, by Truth and Fancy graced,  
 Doth not disdain to own the plastic hand of Taste.

## XII.

Such are the simple songs I bring thee here,  
 Songs that a few will prize, that all may feel ;

Records of bliss and woe, of hope and fear,  
Of lowly lives like tranquil streams that steal,  
And in their wanderings, dark or bright, reveal  
The shade or sunshine of their chequered way :  
Such is the offering that with duteous zeal,  
And love time-hallowed, at thy feet I lay ;  
Where could my votive Muse such well-earned homage pay ?

## XIII.

To whom but thee could I so fitly bring  
The fond memorials of that downy nest,  
Where Fancy oft hath plumed her ruffled wing  
With sounds of peace, and images of rest ;  
Where by life's ills and meaner cares depressed,  
I joy to flee for solace and repose,—  
The love and counsels of thy gentle breast ;—  
A hallowed home, no carking strife that knows,  
Where lulling sights and sounds my world-vexed thoughts  
compose.

## XIV.

Oft from the loopholes of that still retreat,  
Have we beheld the busy stir without ;  
Watched that wild ocean lashing at our feet,  
With souls subdued and thankfulness devout :  
And as the frequent, fierce, exulting shout  
Of savage men that on each other prey,  
Burst on the ear from madding crowds without ;  
'Twas sweet to feel we were not such as they,  
And sadder, wiser, turn from that keen strife away !

## XV.

And sweet 'neath genial skies in summer weather,  
To watch as now the radiant day decline ;

To turn some bright, immortal page together,  
 Where Poesy's unnumbered treasures shine,  
 And Genius strews around her spells divine ;  
 Milton's proud pomp for Spenser's sweetness leave ;  
 Drink polished wit from Pope's melodious line ;  
 With forceful Gray aspire, with Collins grieve ;  
 Mourn hapless Auburn's fate, and Cowper's truths believe.

## XVI.

Or, sometimes seated by our smiling hearth,  
 When storms without uplift their wintry din,  
 And quiet thoughts from those wild sounds have birth,  
 Deepening the sweetness of the calm within ;  
 In taste united, as in heart akin,  
 To seek (in thought) the bowers of modern Song,  
 A glowing garland of its flowers to twine ;  
 Together, thus the cheerful eve prolong,  
 That seldom comes too soon—and never seems too long.

## XVII.

To wander forth with Harold's wayward Childe,  
 As storm or sunshine rules his Pilgrimage ;  
 To share his gentler moods, his transports wild,  
 And hang with breathless wonder o'er his page.  
 Alas ! that he who could all hearts engage,  
 And stir, at will, the soul's divinest springs,  
 War with his better self so oft would wage,  
 And wring harsh discords from harmonious strings ;  
 Veiling his spirit's eyes, like the angel, with his wings !

## XVIII.

That he whose genius upon manna fed,  
 Was imped to soar where loftiest thoughts have birth,

To Marah's bitter fount too often led,  
 Should dim its plumage with the stains of earth :  
 Alas, for Genius ! Fame, of little worth,  
 The fickle world is ever ripe to wrong,—  
 That desolates the heart, then mourns the dearth  
 Of all that still might to that heart belong !  
 That Grief so oft should be the heritage of Song !

## XIX.

To seek, with Campbell, Susquehanna's wave,  
 And list the descendant of his Indian Chief ;  
 To muse awhile o'er Connacht Moran's grave,  
 And share his widowed bride's indignant grief :  
 Or when the song peals forth, in grand relief,  
 Of England's meteor flag, and Nelson's fame,  
 In trumpet notes, sonorous, clear, and brief ;  
 To feel, within, the patriotic flame  
 Lit in each British heart by that undying name !

## XX.

Poet of Hope ! though many a joy hath fled,  
 And many a dream, too wildly loved to last,  
 In youth's bright spring our bounding hearts that fed,  
 And came like sunshine, have like sunshine passed ;  
 Though Hope for us may never more forecast  
 Her El-Dorado, sought so long in vain ;  
 Though Fancy fail, and Youth may fleet as fast,  
 Till but life's cold realities remain,  
 Her Pleasures still will live in thy melodious strain !

## XXI.

And sweet, in concert, bending o'er his lay,  
 To own the spell of Wordsworth's loftier power ;

By devious Duddon's tranquil stream to stray ;  
By swifter Wharfe to while a thoughtful hour ;  
List the sweet Sabbath-bells from Bolton Tower,  
When glides from Rylstone Fell the milk-white Doe,  
There, by one green sequestered grave to cower,  
And, when the latest hymn hath ceased, to go  
Back to her mountain haunts, with step serene and slow !

## XXII.

To linger with his wandering Sage, and hold  
Communion with the mighty hills, ere yet,  
O'er their proud summits capped with crowns of gold,  
The westering sun's increasing orb hath set ;  
Trace from its source the mountain rivulet  
Hurrying in ceaseless eddies to the vale ;  
Or watch the clouds in gorgeous pageant met  
To usher out the day ; till Twilight pale  
Draws o'er the dimming scene her soft, mysterious veil.

## XXIII.

Nor has our homage been delayed till now,  
Poet and Prophet ! ere the voice of Fame,  
That with unfading wreaths hath bound thy brow,  
Was heard to more than murmur forth thy name,  
Amid the scoffer's gibe, the critic's blame,  
That loftiest truths from simplest lips should glide ;  
Ere Fashion's plaudits swelled the loud acclaim,—  
For even Fashion's fool can track the tide,—  
A household word it grew our smiling hearth beside !

## XXIV.

And by the statue of the arméd knight,  
Where leans with lips apart fair Genevieve,

How sweet to share the tale of wreck and blight,  
 She loves the more because it makes her grieve ;  
 Until the feignéd woe doth so deceive,  
 She deems the “ladye’s” sorrows all her own ;  
 And fearful fate should thus her heart bereave,  
 Yields coy consent before the tale is done ;  
 And thus, by Pity stirred, without a prayer is won !

## XXV.

In Wilson’s white-winged bark to sail away  
 To some green island in the Indian sea,  
 Where life is one long summer holiday,  
 And Nature keeps eternal jubilee :  
 Where Woman blooms in native purity,  
 And fairest flowers and fruits spontaneous smile :  
 Where nothing toils beside the busy bee ;  
 Where Care comes not, nor Falsehood’s serpent wile,  
 To mar the perfect peace of that enchanted isle.

## XXVI.

Or with melodious Rogers, earliest loved,—  
 The longer known more loved,—of whose pure strains  
 The soothing power our hearts so oft have proved  
 To call up Memory’s joys without her pains,  
 O’er days gone by to muse : ’mid sunset plains,  
 Scenes such as Claude would paint and he has sung ;  
 Or by the cheerful hearth, where calmly reigns  
 Domestic Peace her halcyon mates among ;  
 His songs, so silver-sweet, glide oftenest from our tongue.

## XXVII.

But, see, the sun hath vanished from the sky,  
 And twilight’s glow is deepening into night ;

The crescent moon is climbing fast on high,  
And countless stars, with intermittent light,  
Are twinkling now, and now elude the sight !  
Oh, for the dove's strong wings, that we might soar  
From this dull earth to yon empyrean height,  
Where life's mean cares, its fitful fever o'er,  
The world's wild strife and wrong might never touch us more.

## NOTES.

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\*\*\* The following Poems are from the pen of Mrs. Alaric Watts:—The Deserted Cottage (page 120); Requiem of Youth (123); A Maiden's Soliloquy (124); Guardian Angels (140); On the Statue of his Deceased Child by R. Lane, Esq. (167); Sappho (180); Stanzas written at Vaucluse (186); Amiens Cathedral (191). The subject of the Love of Poetry not Extinct (213), was suggested by Mrs. Alaric Watts, and several of the stanzas are from her pen.

Page 32, line 18.

"There Salvi's Nun in silent prayer doth bow."

In this and the succeeding stanza, the surname of the painter has been substituted for that by which he is usually designated: as Salvi, for Sassoferato; Cagliari, for Paul Veronese; Zampieri, for Domenichino; Mazzuoli, for Parmegiano; and Berretino, for Pietro da Cartona.

Page 34, line 17.

"For ever thine, whate'er this heart belie." "

The refrain of these verses is borrowed from a German song.

Page 38, line 25.

"Thou wert Venus' sister-twin,  
If this shade be thine, Nell Gwynn."

The beautiful sketch which gave occasion for these lines was suggested to the late G. S. Newton, R. A., by an old miniature, said to have been a portrait of Nell Gwynn, but bearing a much greater resemblance to the picture of Ninon de l'Enclos, in her *première jeunesse*.

Page 40, line 11.

“Intreat me not to leave thee so.”

A paraphrase of verses 16 and 17 of the first chapter of the Book of Ruth.

Page 49, line 1.

“Sad Experience, bought how dearly,  
Cruel, seldom to be kind;  
Like the stern-light, shows too clearly,  
But the track we leave behind!”

“To most men, Experience is like the stern-lights of a ship, which illumine only the track it has passed.”—S. T. COLERIDGE.

Page 53, line 10.

“I see thee oft in Fancy’s glass,  
'Edwin' and 'Ranger in thy train,  
Pacing across the village plain,  
The 'Broken Bridge' to pass.

The allusions in this and the three succeeding stanzas refer to poems included in Mrs. Southeby’s “Solitary Hours,” “Birthday, and other Poems,” as well as to her pathetic “Chapters on Churchyards.”

Page 55, line 16.

“Till Memory’s self be dead.”

“Till Pity’s self be dead.”—COLLINS.

Page 60, line 3.

“Gathering, since he scorns to fly,  
Life's last energies to die!”

“ And rally life's last energies to die!”

CHINNERY'S DYING GLADIATOR.

Page 65, line 23.

“Mark those infant twins that kneel,  
Side by side.”

These lines were suggested by a beautiful picture from the pencil of my esteemed friend, Thomas Uwins, R.A., entitled “Children in Prayer.”

Page 66, line 16, to page 67, line 16.

“Lo! where yon uplifted eyes  
Seem to commune with the skies.”

It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to mention, that the descriptions contained in this passage have reference to celebrated pictures by Guido, Correggio, Carlo Dolei, and Claude.

Page 86, line 17.

“How hath the fierce oppressor fallen,  
The Golden City ceased.”

A paraphrase of part of the fourteenth chapter of Isaiah, namely, of verses 4 to 12 and 14 to 23.

Page 134, line 19.

“Art thou some spirit from that blissful land.”

This Poem was reprinted in the Prospectus of an Institution for Sisters of Charity, which it was attempted to establish, some years ago, in the neighbour

hood of Hastings; and has since been included in the abridged Biographies of Vincent St. Paul, in use among the Sisters of Charity and Sisters of Mercy, in this country and in France. The benevolent gentleman with whom the idea of establishing a Convent for English Sisters of Charity originated, expended a large sum of money in purchasing and walling in its intended site and gardens; but has not yet succeeded in obtaining the funds requisite for the completion of the edifice. An institution on this plan, which would include Christian ladies of all religious denominations, could hardly fail to prove a blessing to the poor of this country. I have made myself acquainted with the pious labours of the Sisters of Charity in Paris, and can affirm with confidence that the sketch I have drawn (from real life) of a distinguished member of the order is by no means an exaggerated one.

Page 167, line 7.

“I saw thee in thy beauty, bright phantom of the past.”

In a lecture on Poetry, from the pen of the late Ebenezer Elliott, published in Tait's Magazine, it is remarked of this poem, that it is “full of home truths so affectingly real, that no person after reading them can be in doubt as to what it is that constitutes poetry, and passeth show.” Mr. Elliott, however, ascribes the poem to Mr. Lane, whose statue it was written to commemorate. I avail myself of this opportunity to reclaim it for its rightful owner, Mrs. Alaric Watts.

Page 221, line 14.

“The Rhine! the Rhine! be blessings on the Rhine!”

The burthen of a well-known German song.



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